

Loudoun Soccer's Safe Return to Play (COVID-19) policies all participants (players, parents, coaches, referees, staff, spectators, etc.) must follow are the product of many inputs, primarily requirements set forth by the Governor of Virginia, but also those from the county government and Loudoun County Parks, Recreation & Community Services.

As of August 2021, requirements from state and local government are minimal for outdoor sports, and as such, so are Loudoun Soccer's.

The following represent the key responsibilities for referees as we enter the Fall 2021 season.

These policies may change as conditions associated with the pandemic also change; individuals are responsible for staying informed and following them in order to participate.

Pre-Event Self-Wellness Check (the day of each assignment)

All participants (players, coaches, referees, spectators, etc.), prior to attending any event, must complete a two-step pre-event self-wellness check:

1. Temperature Check – individuals with a temperature of 100.4 or higher are prohibited from participating.
2. Answer the following questions on the day of the event, preferably 1-2 hours prior:
 - a. Is your participant's current temperature 100.4 or higher?
 - b. Has the participant been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
 - c. Is the participant exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
 - d. Has the participant been exposed to anyone that has been diagnosed with or has symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

Any individual answering YES to one or more of the questions is prohibited from participating, should stay home, and should immediately notify both their assignor to turn back games and also safetoplay@loudounsoccer.com with relevant details, and await clearance to officiate.

Note that vaccinated individuals without symptoms are permitted to officiate, but must still notify safetoplay@loudounsoccer.com.

Reporting (if failing the wellness check or throughout the season prior to assignments):

Any individual sick with symptoms of, or diagnosed with, or exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 should contact safetoplay@loudounsoccer.com with relevant details, such as key dates (e.g. when symptoms began), to determine whether a pause in participation for that individual is required.

While there are no current policies for participants (players, coaches, spectators, referees, etc.) regarding distancing and masks (permitted but not required), referees are encouraged to practice vigilance and manage perceptions, given their role as authority figures in a match.

Below are suggestions to follow for each assigned match:

Pre-Match:

- Maintain distance from others (coaches, players, other refs, etc.) as much as possible.
- Remind coaches to remain in Technical Area (10 feet from the touchline, between midfield line and the top of the penalty area) and to instruct their parents to remain 10 feet from their touchline.
- Conduct coin toss – captains do not need to shake hands.
- Before kickoff: relocate spectators 10 feet from touchline as needed.
- Referees may handle the game ball with their hands.

During the match

- Maintain physical distance from others as much as possible.
- Exercise caution when using techniques to diffuse situations (like putting your arm around a coach). Instead use calm tone, words, and body language.
- If an on-field injury to a player occurs, coaches may enlist the help of the child's parent, depending on the circumstance (age of player, nature of injury, etc.). Permit this parent to enter the field.

Post-Match

- In lieu of handshakes, teams are encouraged to show alternative signs of good sportsmanship (e.g. "Good game Red" and "Good game White.")
- Accept good game fists bumps at your own comfort level.
- Wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer when possible.
- In between matches, keep your distance from others – if not for your safety then for the comfort level of others.

Referees are to use their best judgment in all situations, and should accept assignments to their own comfort levels.