



# 2020-2021 Soccer Rules Modifications



The following rules modifications by the NFHS have been approved by MSHSAA for implementation for the 2020-2021 school year. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

## Return to Competition

### 1. Soccer Rules Considerations

- **Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)**
  - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
  - Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain current recommended social distancing guidelines.
  - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- **Ball Holders (6-1)**
  - Encourage current recommended social distancing guidelines.
- **Team Benches (1-5-1)**
  - Encourage bench personnel to observe current recommended social distancing guidelines.
- **Substitution Procedures (3-4)**
  - Maintain current recommended social distancing guidelines between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.
- **Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)**
  - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with current recommended social distancing guidelines between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

### 2. Soccer Rules Interpretations

- **Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**
  - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
  - Gloves are permissible.
- **Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM**
  - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
  - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
  - Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)
- **Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
  - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
  - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
    - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
    - Fox 40 Mini -
    - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
    - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
    - Windsor - (3 tone) grey

- Check the market for other choices
- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.

### 3. **General Guidance for Officials**

#### ○ **Monitoring**

- Officials are **NOT** responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. *This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.*

#### ○ **Uniform**

##### ▪ Legal Uniform

- Long sleeves are permissible.
- Long pants are permissible.
- Undergarments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team.

##### ▪ Equipment

- Air horns are permissible.
- Electronic Whistles are permissible
  - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside
    - Fox 40 Mini
    - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic – 3 tone
    - Ergo-Guard – 3 tone – Orange
    - Windsor – 3 tone – Grey
  - Check market for other choices
- Cloth face coverings are permissible
- Gloves are permissible

#### ○ **Rules Consideration**

##### ▪ Pregame Conference

- Limit attendees to required official(s), the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team. Use of headsets with other crew members (if applicable).
- Move the location of the pregame conference to the center of the court/field. All individuals maintain current recommended social distancing guidelines.
- Maintain current recommended social distancing guidelines between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the area designated for substituting.

##### ▪ Officials Table/Press Box

- Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer while maintaining current recommended social distancing guidelines. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space available at the table is a variable in determining the number allowed at the officials table.

#### ○ **Pregame and Postgame Ceremonies**

- Suspend pregame and postgame handshakes with players, coaches and other persons to minimize contact

#### ○ **Personal Responsibilities**

- Take temperature in the morning and then again prior to leaving home/work for a contest; if temperature is elevated above 100.3 or a level recommended by your local or state health department notify contracted school immediately.
- If you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify the contracted school, your crew members, your assigner and stay at home.
- “Vulnerable individuals” are defined by CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to returning to officiating.
- Communicate with school athletic administrator about school/corporation contest expectations.
- Upon arrival at site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Travel – considerations should be given to travel policies.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel and equipment.
- Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet while in the locker room and/or on the court/field.
- Consider supplying your own hydration and snacks to the venue.

