

# Return to Play (Covid) Protocol to all referees

Inbox

## Connecticut State Referee Program

Mon, Oct 19, 7:10 PM  
(20 hours ago)

to noreply, <Undisclosed, bcc: me

I have been requested to send the following to all Registered Assignors and to provide instructions for each of you to send to your pool of referees. Instruct them to print out these guidelines for return to play protocol.

Please print this email and carry it with you to the field to assist with questions.

There are changes to the Referee Protocols concerning spectators wearing masks (#8), and the referees handling of rosters. (#2)

Connecticut Junior Soccer and the Connecticut State Referee Program in partnership are implementing the policies below that will take precedence over all other policies or procedures for all sanctioned US Youth Soccer matches in the State of CT. Unless "Note"d, these policies may not be modified at the field. If it is not specifically mentioned below, the standard Laws of the Game (LOTG) and Rules of Competition shall apply.

1. In lieu of a local policy establishing a field configuration with spectators and players, teams will be required to be across the field from each other, diagonally behind the position of the assistant referees. Parents / spectators for each team will be to their own teams right hand side on the other half of the field (same touchline). The bench area where the players and coaches are sitting is required to be five yards off the side of the field to protect the assistant referee....

Note: Clubs may have guidelines based on their facility setups that make more sense, i.e. Stadium environments, or facilities with multiple fields running parallel to each other. The referee shall follow local club protocols when made available to them.

2. The referee shall obtain a roster listing the players names and shirt numbers. The referee shall not handle player passes. The referee shall confirm with each coach the individual players that are participating in the match by circling the player numbers. The referee shall keep the roster for reporting purposes. (copy with phone or keep the roster itself)

3. Any questions related to player eligibility or player pass evaluation is the responsibility of the head coaches. The referee shall notify the SYRA ([syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net)) via email of any disagreements or problems at the field concerning player eligibility.

4. Referees will no longer keep player passes for ejected players or coaches.

(Handled in Procedure #9)

5. There will no longer be a pre-game coin toss or conference among player captains and the referee crew. The home team will pick the half of the field to defend, the visiting team will kick off. In matches that require or mandate a winner, standard protocols will be followed according to the LOTG and the Rules of Competition.
6. Referees are not required to wear a mask. They must wear one when coming to and leaving the field area.
7. Referees are not mandated to use an electronic whistle.
8. Spectators are mandated at Youth Soccer events to wear masks. Refer to Q&A section protocol on how to handle non-compliance.
9. Individuals in the technical area (player substitutes, coaches, administrators) must wear a mask at all times. Substitutes checking into the match shall report to the mid-field line ready to play (without a mask).
10. Referees shall report RED cards electronically through Central Assign ([www.ctreferee.net](http://www.ctreferee.net)). The referee shall send an email to the SYRA ([syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net)) for all RED cards issued. The email should contain a picture of the two rosters submitted from the head coaches, and the player or coach clearly identified on the roster that received the RED card. The Referee shall not keep any player passes or pictures of player passes for any reason.
11. Instances of spitting on the field are punishable by YELLOW card on first offense, and then RED card for second offense.
12. For league matches, clubs may assume that their opponents have met appropriate Return to Play guidelines. For friendly matches, clubs can validate that their opponents have met the Return to Play guidelines by contacting their District Vice-Presidents.
13. Referees are mandated to notify the SYRA ([syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net)) should they become ill, or feel ill after officiating, or receive a positive diagnosis of COVID-19.
14. All questions related to game day procedures for Youth Competitions shall be forwarded to the SYRA at [syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net).

Questions you may have:

What is considered to be a valid roster? The referee should accept any roster format that is submitted by the Head Coach. All rosters are now generated from a

common format using the Stack platform.

Can the roster be modified? Yes, the coach may add players to the roster by hand writing them onto the roster. No problem.

What if the coach does not have a roster available? Ask the coach to provide a hand written list of players and uniform numbers. If the coach refuses, allow the game to be played and report the incident to the SYRA at [syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net) .

What should I do if a spectator is not wearing a mask? Clubs are required to provide a COVID director, field marshall, or other representative to handle spectator compliance with return to play protocols. If the referee sees a compliance issue, it should be treated the the same way you would any other spectator based mis-conduct. Notify the head coach of the home team, if the spectator refuses, stop the game, and leave the facility. Once you are in a safe place, notify the SYRA at [syra@ctreferee.net](mailto:syra@ctreferee.net) of the incident.

Referee game-day protocols:

1. Arrives at the field as usual
2. Approaches each of the head coach's and asks for a roster for the match. Inquire of players will be properly equipped, and who is the Covid director at the field.
3. Identify which players are participating by ensuring that players numbers are circled on the roster
4. Inquire from the home team which goal they wish to defend (or attack).
5. Conducts a pre-game with the other officials present.
6. Starts the game.
7. Finishes the game
8. Keeps the roster, or an image of the roster for reporting purposes.
9. Reports the game and any unusual circumstances

Respectfully,

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