

Officiating in 2020 and Beyond



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Disclaimer

The opinions of the presenter are meant to be for discussion purposes only. In no way do these recommendations supersede the expertise of medical professionals or legal counsel

It's Your Choice

Officials have a choice to work and must be equipped to emotionally and physically be ready to work the game

This includes sniffles, coughs, colds, fevers, uncertainty and uncomfortableness.

The days of “If you can walk, you can work” are over!



Protect Yourself

This means guarding your actions, comments, health, liability and personal image.

Practice good habits.

Maintain good personal records.

Watch what you say and do.

Use healthcare professionals to your benefit.

Review your accounts and credit reports.



Physical Fitness 101

We must be physically prepared to officiate when the season starts

Immobility, limited physical fitness facilities during stay-at-home measures and a lack of a fall sports season will offer new challenges.

A reduction of officials during a shortened season may force some officials to work more frequently.



Times are Changing

Changes may include modifications to the facilities and the way that participants interact



Follow the Policy

As an independent contractor, officials may have to adhere to the policies of the entity that is hiring you or by the regulations of the public body

Local groups may wish for you to take precautions for everyone's safety (i.e., temperature checks, wearing of masks, using electronic whistles).



Follow the Guidelines

**Follow the guidance that is handed down
from supervisory personnel**

**Maintain social distancing while performing pregame responsibilities.
Move the conference to the center circle. Keep them on the circle.
Have only one official, each head coach and one captain per team.
Demonstrate the sound of your electronic whistle.**

Follow the Guidelines



2020-21 Guidance for Officials

The NFHS Officials Advisory Committee offers this guidance for state associations for the 2020-21 school year.

The guidance outlined in this document is 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.

This guidance is meant to cover officials in all sports while keeping in mind that protocols are different in each sport and adjustments may need to be made.

Only Follow the Rules

Do not perform services that are not directly related to the playing rules or to officiating

You can still be a good guy and not have to follow the request of everybody.

There are other adults in supervisory capacities other than officials.



Don't Wear Multiple Hats

When you are officiating, you must be an official

Officials ARE NOT responsible for monitoring social distancing guidelines on the team benches, sidelines, in the bleachers, or anywhere outside the boundaries of the court/field. Coaches and school personnel are responsible for monitoring their own teams.



Rules are meant to be Followed

**Some practices may be modified by game management,
but you, as an official, do not have the right to
modify the rules**

**Your responsibilities are to make decisions
as governed by the rules and to uphold
the integrity of the game.**



Watch what you Sign

Be careful in giving away your rights or accepting additional responsibilities by signing a waiver

You may not want to sign any hold harmless agreements.

You should not accept any new duties that could put you in jeopardy later.



Follow best Practices

Do not sacrifice your good habits when working contests

Continue the safe practices of wearing masks and staying socially distant to and from the game.

Wash or sanitize your hands before every game, at halftime and after the game is over.



It's OK to Ask

Be content in asking game management for conditions that can help aid your comfort

Talk with host management to secure a locker facility that is safe and an area to have your pre-game that is free of heavy foot traffic and well ventilated.



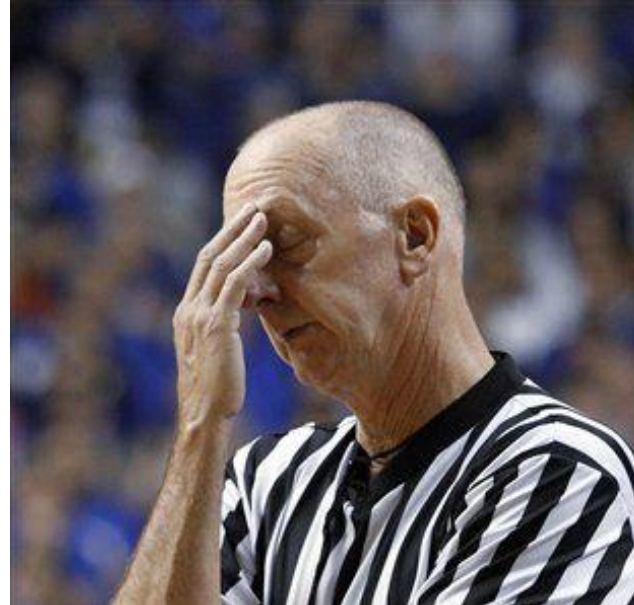
Stay away from Politics

**In officiating, left and right needs to be directional only,
and not political**



You are under the Microscope

**Your body language is magnified even more
by participants and spectators**



You still need to be a Communicator



Even though conditions may change,
our **ideals** should never be sacrificed.

i-de-al – a standard of perfection

**Be professional. Be approachable.
Be direct and to the point.
Be respectful. Be engaged.
Be a good listener. Be in the right position.**



It's OK to be Social, but...

- Consider social media communications as public at all times — even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, consider your communication may be read by anyone at anytime.
- You represent the officiating industry, your associations, your assigners and your partners.
- Promote officiating in a positive light and with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. You are an ambassador for officiating.
- Do not engage in specific play and or ruling evaluation commentary, whether it be of a game you worked, or one that you witnessed.



Have a Great Season!



Stay Smart

Stay Safe

Stay Strong