



# COVID-19 & FOOTBALL

A WOA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

UPDATED—OCTOBER, 2020

# Football is considered a High Risk activity.

- ▶ According to the Governor's Plan, Football can start when a Region moves to Phase 2
- ▶ To move to Phase 2 an area must:
  - ▶ A 10% decreasing trend in case rates during the previous two-week period
  - ▶ A 10% decrease in COVID-19 hospital admission rates during the previous 14-day period
  - ▶ An ICU occupancy seven-day average that's less than 90%
  - ▶ A test positivity rate through seven days that averages less than 10%.

# The Source of Information is:

- ▶ The Return to Activity guidelines put out by the WIAA. That is the only source you should refer to. It's found on their website ([www.wiaa.com](http://www.wiaa.com)).
- ▶ All information in this PowerPoint is copied from this document word for word.

# Spectators, Players, and Other People

- ▶ Games are limited to 200 total people which includes:
  - ▶ Players
  - ▶ Officials
  - ▶ Coaches
  - ▶ Game Workers
- ▶ This means that the crowd will be very small. Schools are looking at ways to stream the games so that fans can watch the game.

# Considerations for Officials

- ▶ **Officials must wear a cloth face covering at all times. *This is not in the document yet, but it is a requirement by the WIAA.***
- ▶ **A separate bathroom for officials should be provided when possible.**
- ▶ **Officials are recommended to bring their own food and water**
- ▶ **Electronic whistles are preferred**
- ▶ **Officials must be spaced 3-6 feet apart**
- ▶ **Officials will not be expected to monitor the physical distancing; each person is responsible.**
- ▶ **Cleaning supplies should be available on site with devices sanitized between uses.**

# TEAM BOX (Rule 1-2-3g)

- ▶ The team box may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (for players only) in order for more social-distancing space for the teams.
- ▶ Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while in the team box.

# BALL (Rule 1-3-2)

- ▶ The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
- ▶ The ball holders should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest.

# FACE COVERINGS (Rules 1-5-1a, 1-5-3c)

- ▶ Cloth face coverings are mandatory
- ▶ Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest



# GLOVES (Rule 1-5-2B)

- ▶ **Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rule 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification.**

# STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS (Rule 1-7)

- ▶ Each state association may adopt other playing/ administrative rules for football for the 2020 season that would decrease exposure to respiratory droplets and COVID-19.

# CHARGED TIMEOUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES

## (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)

- ▶ A single charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length.
- ▶ The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)
- ▶ Each game official and player should have their own beverage container brought out to them on the field.

# INTERMISSION (Rule 3-5-7I)

- ▶ The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick.



# FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL CONSIDERATIONS

# GAME OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

- ▶ 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)
  - ▶ Check the market for other choices
- ▶ Gloves are permissible.
- ▶ Do not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment

# **PREGAME CONFERENCE, COIN TOSS, AND OVERTIME PROCEDURES**

- ▶ **For the coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team.**
- ▶ **Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.**
- ▶ **Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.**
- ▶ **For the overtime procedure, please use the same procedure as used at the start of the contest for the coin toss.**

# PRE AND POST GAME CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions.
- ▶ Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands



# FINAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOOTBALL

- ▶ Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
- ▶ Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- ▶ Everyone should have their own beverage container that is not shared.

# MORE FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ **Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.**
- ▶ **Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.**