

# **WIAA FOOTBALL COVID PROTOCOLS**

## **Considerations for Officials, Coaches, Other Personnel**

- Schools should have officials' information in order to track contacts (may be accessible through Arbiter.)
  - A separate bathroom should be provided for officials when possible.
- Officials are recommended to bring their own food and water.
  - Electronic whistles are preferred.
- Officials must be spaced 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.

## **FOOTBALL RULES CONSIDERATIONS**

- TEAM BOX (Rule 1-2-3g)
  - The team box may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines
- 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.
- 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 TIME-OUTS 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 BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING (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 (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)
    - 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.
  - 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.

## **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.
- 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.

If available, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.

# WOA COVID-19 Reporting Protocols<sup>as of 2-1-21</sup>

## **Preventive Measures**

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, officials should maintain 6 feet of social distancing whenever possible, wear a face covering and wash or sanitize hands before and after events.

Officials should not participate in an event if:

1. They have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
2. They have a fever of 100.4° F or higher.
3. They are currently feeling ill with any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever or chills, muscle pain or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or new loss of taste or smell.

## **If notified by a school of someone testing positive for COVID-19**

Due to privacy laws, we will not be notified of who tested positive. If officials followed the preventive measures stated above, they should be at minimal risk of contracting COVID-19 from players, coaches or other school personnel. Officials should monitor themselves for symptoms over the next 14 days after the event.

## **If an official tests positive for COVID-19**

Gather the following information:

1. What date did symptoms first appear? If no symptoms, find date of positive COVID-19 test.
2. Was there any close contact at event(s) within 48 hours of when symptoms first appeared or date of positive test? (**Close Contact** = Spending a cumulative 15 minutes during the event within 6 feet, even if wearing a face covering, with a player, coach, official or other school personnel)

### **If the answer to question #2 is “yes”**

- Assigner or designee will notify WOA, immediately upon discovery. WOA will work with WIAA on notifying the schools.
- Assigner or designee will notify officials that were in close contact, immediately upon discovery, but please do not share name of the official.

#### **Sample Notification:**

An official was just notified they have tested positive for COVID-19. You are receiving this notification because you may have been in close contact with this official. Please monitor yourself for symptoms over the next 14 days. If you develop symptoms, it is recommended that you speak with your health care provider to determine if you should be tested. Here is a link to the [COVID-19 :: Washington State Department of Health](#) for more information.

### **If the answer to question #2 is “no”**

- Assigner or designee will notify WOA, immediately upon discovery. WOA will work with WIAA on notifying the schools.
- Assigner or designee will notify officials to monitor for symptoms, immediately upon discovery, but please do not share name of the official.

#### **Sample Notification:**

An official was just notified they have tested positive for COVID-19. Based on the information we have you are not considered a close contact with this official. Please monitor yourself for symptoms over the next 14 days. If you develop symptoms, it is recommended that you speak with your health care provider to determine if you should be tested. Here is a link to the [COVID-19 :: Washington State Department of Health](#) for more information.

## PROTOCOL FOR ENFORCING PHYSICAL DISTANCING (SEASON 1) as of 2-1-21

1. During the pregame conference, officials will remind coaches/game management about following WIAA Covid protocols and allowing the officials to maintain physical distancing.
2. If the team is not adhering to proper physical distancing when interacting with the official, the official will remind the coach that physical distancing must be followed.
3. If problem persists, ask game management to take care of the issue. If the problem is resolved, skip to step 5.
4. If the problem is not resolved by game management, suspend the contest and contact your assigner/designee. The assigner/designee and game management should discuss the situation and attempt to resolve the issue.
5. At the conclusion of the contest, contact your assigner/designee to inform them of the non-compliance. Be specific.
6. The assigner/designee will contact the WOA.
7. The WOA will address with WIAA.
8. The WIAA will address with the school.
9. Multiple complaints of non-compliance could result in officiating services being suspended.

# **OPTIONAL UMPIRE POSITIONING FOR SPRING 2021**

We are giving the umpire the option of positioning themselves for scrimmage plays in the traditional umpire position behind the defensive line opposite the referee or to move behind the offensive line opposite the referee for the Spring Season of 2021 only. The reason for offering this change in position is to help make sure the Umpire avoids exposure to possible droplets that potentially might contain the COVID virus due to having to constantly go through the players in spotting the ball and moving to his/her normal position. The umpire shall have his/her choice of which position they line up in (this decision is entirely the umpires as to which position they line up in)

## **I. Prior to the snap**

- A. On plays outside of the 5-yard line, the Umpire's position is 10 to 15 yards from the line of scrimmage and 5-7 yards wider and on the opposite side from the Referee.
- B. On plays from the 5-yard line and in, the Umpire lines up behind the linebackers as he needs to be in position to help on goal line plays.
- C. Referee keys on opposite tackle. Umpire keys on center, guards, and opposite tackle.

## **II. After the snap**

- A. If running play, Umpire keys on blocks on runs between the tackles
- B. If running play away from Umpire, he watches for action away from the runner and Referee keys on point of attack
- C. If running play on Umpire's side, keys on point of attack and Referee watches action away from runner
- D. On passing plays, if QB stays in pocket, Umpire keys on linemen
- E. On passing plays where QB rolls towards Umpire, Umpire keys on QB and Referee keys on action away from QB. Umpire may need to move back to maintain distance from QB.
- F. On passing plays where QB rolls towards Referee, Referee keys on QB and Umpire keys on action away from QB

## **III. Punts**

- A. Umpire positions 10 to 15 yards from line of scrimmage and 5-7 yards wider and on the opposite side from the Referee
- B. Umpire keys on snapper and interior linemen
- C. After punt, Umpire watches blocks away from ball
- D. On bad snaps, Referee and Umpire would bracket play.
- E. On bad snaps/blocks the HL has responsibility for the line of scrimmage and ineligible receivers downfield.

#### **IV. PATs and Field Goals**

1. 10 yards or less, Umpire under goal post with Back Judge
2. Outside of 10 yards,
  - A. Umpire positions 10 to 15 yards from line of scrimmage and 5-7 yards wider and on the opposite side from the Referee
  - B. Umpire keys on snapper and interior linemen
  - C. On bad snaps, Referee and Umpire would bracket play
  - D. On bad snaps/blocks the wing official who remained on the LOS, has responsibility for the line of scrimmage and ineligible receivers downfield.

In the case of a fumble with the resultant pile of players trying to get possession of the ball, officials should refrain from “digging” into the pile. Instead they should maintain social distancing as much as possible and verbally direct the players to unpile. If one official has clearly seen a player in possession of the fumble he should make the call clearly and be very vocal about it so everyone is aware. If no official had a clear look and a confident call, watch the players as they get up to see if one has clear possession. As a last resort, if it is unclear which team recovered the fumble, use the “joint possession” rule and award possession to the offense.