

# North West Sydney Football Referees Association

## COVID 19 Protocol

### Guidelines for Match Officials

June 2020



The priority of NWSFRA is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our referees and the community and to undertake the social responsibility to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Referees are encouraged to download the [COVID Safe App](#).

#### Participation

Referees **should not participate** in matches, training, meetings or any other football activities if they:

- are displaying cold/flu like symptoms
- have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- awaiting results of a COVID 19 test.

***In the event of a referee testing positive for COVID-19, they must contact the Appointments Chairperson immediately on 0422 000 580.***

#### Responsibilities

Referees should contact Appointments ***as early as possible*** if they are unable to fulfil their appointment(s). Refer to the [NSWFRA Administration Instructions](#) for contact details.

Referees and Assistant referees are to advise Appointments via an incident report if an appointed referee and/or assistant referee does not turn up for the game.

Individual referees are responsible for ensuring that their Match History maintained on the NWSFRA website is up to date and accurate.

#### Training

Return to training guidelines are available on the [Football NSW Return to Training website](#). Match Officials will be considered 'players' in this context and attendance at training must be recorded and filed.

#### Preparation for Matches

In addition to the traditional items in your kit bag, the 'Referees Kit' should now include:

- [Download the COVID Safe App](#)
- Soap and / or sanitiser
- Antibacterial wipes and or sprays (e.g. Glen 20)
- Paper towels
- Bring your own drink bottle – clearly labelled with your name

#### Before Leaving Home

- Double check your kit bag to ensure you have all your gear ... no sharing of equipment.
- Ensure you have all 3 shirts .... black, blue and yellow.
- Sanitise your equipment

#### Arrival

- Arrive dressed in your referee uniform.
- Arrive 15 - 30 minutes prior to play to inspect fields/warm-up/complete administration.
- Maintain the 1.5 metre physical distancing protocol with all people.

**These guidelines accompany Football NSW 'Return to Play Guidelines', New South Wales Government and Federal Government COVID-19 plans and directives; and any other directive from Football NSW or FFA specific to COVID-19.**



### **Pre-Match**

- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 m, including the issuing of referee's instructions.
- Sanitise regularly.
- Physical contact such as shaking hands is not allowed
- Do not share clothing. If this means referee teams are wearing different colours, so be it.
- Do not share equipment, including stationery and pens.
- Do not share drinks, snacks, lollies etc
- Minimise handling of the ball. You can always dribble the ball onto the field.

### **Change Room (if applicable)**

Avoid the use of change rooms. If you decide to use the change room, the following guidelines apply.

- The only people allowed in the referee change room are: Referees and Referee coach
- Remember the 1 person per 4 sq metre rule (NSW government is maintaining this rule)
- Referees are encouraged to keep a record of who enters whilst they are present.
- On completion of match, officials should leave the change room and take belongings.

If there are multiple 'teams' of officials using a change room that is not large enough to allow for physical distancing measures to be taken, it is the responsibility of the referee team going ON to the next match to be ready and vacate the change room BEFORE the completion of the previous match.

### **During the Match**

- Do not touch players for any reason.
- Referees are to follow the LOTG only. They are not there to police COVID 19 guidelines of players, coaches or spectators.
- Spitting should be discouraged; however, referees should apply the Laws of the Game and sanction a player only if they are guilty of spitting at a person.
- Minimise touching the ball. The only time you should touch the ball is at a drop ball. Players can place the ball for place kicks etc under your supervision.
- Assistant Referees are to use their own flags
- Assistant Referees **are not** to touch or collect the ball with their hands when it goes out.
- Treat injuries as normal by enabling the team officials to deal with players.

### **Half Time**

- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres between referees and other people
- Sanitise equipment and hands ... you may have touched the ball
- Do not share drinks, snacks, lollies etc

### **After the Match**

- Referees should depart in their uniform and shower at home
- Sanitise all equipment including whistles and flags.

### **Between Matches**

If you are appointed to multiple matches

- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres between referees and other people
- Sanitise equipment and hands
- Do not share drinks, snacks, lollies etc.

### **Matches without Assistant Referees**

If you are uncomfortable with sharing your flags with club lines people, ask a team official to simply use a coloured jumper to indicate in and out.

If you are willing to share your flags with a club linesperson, the following protocols apply:

- sanitise the flags before handing them over and after the flags have been used
- ask the person borrowing them to sanitise their hands before receiving the flag
- avoid touching your face between taking your flags back and re-sanitising your hands.