

HSSO Pre Season Notes

Welcome to the 2021 Spring boys season (season C) – I know it is a long time since most of us refereed a game so I wanted to get you some information and updates before we get underway.

1. COVID protocols/guidelines.

CHSAA worked with a cross functional group including AD's, coaches and referees to develop a set of guidelines for the boys season – these guidelines have been approved by CDPHE and the full guidelines are at the end of this email – please read the entire document, not just the officials section at the end.

A couple of highlights to point out

- A mask is required when you are not on the field – but is NOT required when you are on the field working the game.
- Enforcement of protocols is NOT the responsibility of the referee – we are not the COVID police – that is the responsibility of the game administrator
- Pregame and coin toss is ONE referee, and a coach and single captain from each team
- Assume there will be no access to locker rooms so arrive at the game ready to go. You should ensure you bring your own water/drinks as well as your own equipment and hand sanitizer.

2. Pre Game Contact

I strongly encourage you as a center referee to contact the schools several days in advance of your game (info is on Arbiter when you click on the game number). Just because you are familiar with a school or stadium doesn't mean you shouldn't call – as in most cases it will be different.

You need to understand where to enter the site, where to set up at the corner of the field or elsewhere and find out if there are any specific protocols for that site – ie: limits on when to arrive on site, etc. Because of protocols it is even more important to know who is the site administrator. Share all the info you collect with your crew. If you are an AR and haven't received info from your center then follow up with them or contact the school yourself.

3. Substitutions

Make allowances for where benches and subs are set up – the bench may be in the stands or spaced out all the way down the touchline. If a sub is halfway down from the stands when the ball goes out of play – let him enter. If he is still sitting up there when the ball goes out and the coach yells sub – then that isn't going to be allowed!!

4. Assignments

In most cases assignments have been released for the entire 5 weeks season (10 games per team). Tuesdays and Thursdays are particularly busy so that is where we will need your help the most. There are lots of open games so please contact your assignors or self-assign on Arbiter.

5. Diagonal System of Control

Just a reminder that we are operating under the diagonal system – one referee with a whistle and two assistant referees with flags. It seems a long time ago but fall 2019 was the first season of moving away from 3 whistle.

It may be obvious but a reminder that only the center referee uses a whistle.

With moving away from the 3-whistle system there may be a referee in your crew who hasn't used flags in a while – or ever. Work together to help each other and ensure you have a thorough pre game discussion.

Be patient and sympathetic with your refereeing. Everyone is rusty - players, coaches and referees - and they haven't had any warm up games.

6. Changes to the Rules

Please look at the rule changes to refresh your knowledge – the recent changes bring the high school rules more in line with IFAB/USSF laws of the game. You can find the changes on the front page of the website hss-colorado.org along with other useful information.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, any board member or your respective area directors with any questions, concerns, issues or comments.

Thanks for all you do for high school sports and have a great season.

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