



OPTIONAL USE OF TRADITIONAL WHISTLE WITH ELECTRONIC WHISTLE PERMITTED

Effective immediately, CFO football officials may now optionally add a traditional whistle in conjunction with the electronic whistle to administer the game. Below are the protocols when utilizing this approach:

- Based on health and safety guidance, masking up as much as possible continues to be preferred to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and having officials use electronic whistles or a whistle/mask is recommended.
- Additionally, social distancing remains important to reduce exposure; wearing a mask continues to be central to this effort when social distancing is not possible.
- In situations where there is concern about the electronic whistle being heard clearly, officials may optionally utilize a traditional whistle. This does not eliminate the need for other COVID-19 mitigation efforts.
- When officials optionally select to use a traditional whistle, they may lower their mask when the snap is imminent and may work the live ball period with the mask lowered.
- The use of masks is very important. Officials will mask up during all dead ball periods and will take special care to mask up when around or talking to players, coaches, or other officials / personnel in the dead ball period.
- An official may unmask during dead ball periods when away from others (following social distancing protocols).
- When an official elects to use a traditional and electronic whistle in combination together, the official should minimize the time lowering the mask and using the traditional whistle and use the electronic whistle whenever possible (e.g., Ready for play signal by the referee).
- Safe whistle mechanics such as not blowing traditional whistles directly at any coach, player or other individual and minimizing the times officials blow a traditional whistle during the game is imperative.

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