



2021 CFO COVID-19 Officiating Protocols

This document is intended to provide high-level officiating best practices consistent with guidance published by the federal government and The NCAA's Covid-19 reference page, that can be accessed by the following link:

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI_ResocializationSummerActivities.pdf

These protocols remain subject to revision as available data and information in this space continue to emerge and evolve. These materials should not be used as a substitute for medical or legal advice.

Suggested Protocols for CFO Football officials that have been fully vaccinated:

- Officials will only be tested before each contest if they are symptomatic for COVID-19 according to Conference guidelines.
- Officials may work the CCA mechanics on the field according to the 2021 Football Officiating Manual.
- Social distancing remains an important aspect to reduce exposure and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and all officials should practice this methodology whenever possible. Masking up in certain situations at the option of the official continues to be central to this effort when social distancing is not possible.

Suggested Protocols for CFO Football officials that have not been fully vaccinated:

- Non-vaccinated officials will be tested before each contest according to Conference guidelines.
- 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 non-vaccinated officials use a mask is required.
- Non-vaccinated officials will mask up for all on site pre-game meetings (i.e., Head Coach pre-game meeting; Game Management Meeting).

- It is recommended that non-vaccinated officials participate virtually in all crew meetings. Additional time together with the crew (i.e., Van ride to stadium, locker room access) the non-vaccinated official will be masked up.
- Non-vaccinated officials may lower their mask when the snap is imminent and may work the live ball period with the mask lowered.
- Non-vaccinated 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.
- A non-vaccinated official may unmask during dead ball periods when away from others (following social distancing protocols).
- Safe whistle mechanics such as not blowing traditional whistles directly at any coach, player or other individual is imperative.

Toss / Pregame Meeting / Auxiliary Personnel

- The Toss will be opened back up to allow 4 field captains from each team to be present with the Referee and Umpire as prescribed in Rule 3-1-1-e. Game Management will identify and manage any additional individuals that are to be recognized as honorary captains and participating in the toss. Game Management will ensure that Conference / State / Local guidelines are followed in terms of vaccinations / testing for all honorary captains. Additionally, masking guidelines for honorary captains will be determined by Game management in conjunction with Conference / State / Local guidelines.
- The Referee and Umpire will visit each dressing room and meet with the Head Coach or designated representative as described in the CCA Football Officiating Manual within Pregame Duties. Conference / State / Local guidelines will be followed in terms of vaccinations / testing / masking / social distancing for all involved.
- Auxiliary personnel (e.g., chain crew, red hat, standby official, ball personnel, etc.) will follow Conference / State / Local guidelines in terms of vaccinations / testing / masking at the direction of Game Management.

Steve Shaw
CFO National Coordinator of Football Officials
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