



## **Conference Game Day Covid-19 Procedures**

As I'm sure your team has experienced at other events (or simply by going to the grocery store), many protocols and procedures have to be adapted or changed (or simply thrown out or added). Our Conference matches are no exception, so below is a list of some of the precautions, procedures, and protocols we'd like to communicate to teams playing this fall (until further notice). Throughout the season, we will evaluate the below processes and make adjustments where necessary. It's important that all players, coaches, spectators, and referees **DO THEIR PART** to maintain a safe play environment. Please make sure your team is informed with applicable procedures below. These procedures listed below apply to all club hosted or one off team hosted matches. **Please note that local and/or state restrictions supersede ANY of the procedures you see listed below.** Procedures for conference hosted events will be clearly explained at a later date to all teams attending those specific conference hosted events.

### **AT THE COMPLEX or FIELD**

- Players/Coaches may enter the complex or field **NO EARLIER** than 45 minutes prior to their match time. Teams should not proceed to their bench area until the prior team has completely left. If a team arrives earlier than 45 minutes before their match, they need to remain in their car.
- Spectators may enter the complex or field **NO EARLIER** than 10 minutes prior to the start of their team's match. This mandate is to minimize cross-traffic and ensure social distancing when spectators leave and enter the field area.
- Any player, coach, or spectator who is at risk or has underlying health conditions should consider **NOT** being present for Conference matches.
- Spectators who are not from the same family must social distance while at the complex or field on the sidelines. We recommend teams try to pro-actively limit their volume of spectators to an average of one spectator per player.
- Players and coaches are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering while not participating in soccer activities.
- Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering at all times while at the complex or field.
- Following a match, spectators should immediately leave and return to their vehicle so the next round of spectators can arrive with the maximum amount of social distancing.

### **TEAM AREA and GAME PLAY**

- It is the Team Coach and Team Manager's responsibility to make sure that players attending Conference matches are **NOT** exhibiting any symptoms related to Covid-19.
- It is likely that most complexes and fields will not provide benches in the current climate, so players should look to bring their own seating if required, but please make sure they are properly disinfected.
- Team Check-In with the Referee will be done with social distancing in mind. Referees, players, and coaches are strongly recommend to wear a face covering during the check-in process.
- The team official who prints the GotSport Game Card should hand the Game Card directly to the referee...this is to limit the number of people who touch the Game Card. It is recommended that team officials from either team communicate ahead of time to cross check that the correct players that are not dressed to play that specific game are crossed off the roster as eligible players. In such case, the duplicate Game Card should be destroyed.
- To minimize the amount of contact with player cards, coaches are encouraged to hold the player cards out at arm's length during Team Check-In. Additionally, for 15U-19U matches operating limited substitutions, the entering players card should be shown by the coach to the referee/asst referee at arms length, then place the

card on the ground several feet back from the half line. After the first half and after the 2nd half of the match, the coach can collect the player cards.

- Referees are to be paid in cash prior to kickoff. Please have your teams portion of the referee pay in a clear plastic sleeve that can be placed handed to the referee along with the game card.
- A coin flip will be done with social distancing in mind and no handshakes or high fives. At their discretion, the referee may simply assign the home team to kickoff the 1st half of the match and away team to kickoff the 2nd half.
- Prior to the match, the host team should provide a disinfected game ball (i.e. cleaned with a disinfecting wipe). At half-time, the referee or the host team will disinfect the game ball.
- Should an injury happen on the field, referees are required to maintain social distancing when evaluating the player.
- Following the match players should adhere to social distancing with the opposing team and referees. In an effort to encourage sportsmanship, teams are encouraged to find unique ways of displaying sportsmanship while maintaining social distancing (for example, clapping in a gesture that shows appreciation).
- Following the match, players and coaches must immediately clean up the team area and leave so the next team can arrive. The GotSport game card should be collected from the referee by the team official of the winning team, or the first team listed in the event of a tie.

As another reminder of the referee pre game process from the referee's standpoint, please visit the Referee Information drop down menu on the conference homepage. Click on the Instructions to Referees link. In this section you will also find the full list of approved referee assignors that will be able to assign match officials to all games. The HOST club listed on the schedule is always responsible for contacting the local assignor.

***Subject to Change (as of August 20, 2020)***