



RETURN TO REFEREE SAFELY

Interaction with players & coaches:

1. NO MORE HANDSHAKES, NONE
2. Introduction with coaches, verbal greeting with eye contact only
3. Checking players in, roster check, line up the players. If you are working age group that requires cards or virtual IDs. Have the team manager hold the cards or phone and confirm players registration
4. Coin toss – no handshakes, 1 captain per team
5. At the end of the match, do not expect the younger players to line up and go through the ceremonial hi-fives, it's not going to happen. Do not expect the older age groups to shake hands afterwards. Get used to a verbal, "good game" acknowledgement between the teams.
6. If a coach wants to have a conversation or share a quick point with you after the match (if it's respectful), maintain a minimum of a 6 ft distance
7. When coaches or players want to share their gratitude to you – AWESOME! NO SHAKING HANDS, maintain a minimum of 6 ft distance
8. Injured players do not allow teammates to huddle around, within a 6 ft distance, do a quick assessment (see if the injured players wants/needs their coach), if so, get the coach out there. As always, back away once the coach has arrived.

We can professionally and respectfully communicate verbally with appropriate tones, body language and eye contact. The removal of the traditional handshake is EXPECTED during this time at every level of the game.

Interaction with referee crew members:

1. NO MORE HANDSHAKES, NONE
2. Verbally reaffirm when someone does a nice job
3. For your pregame or at halftime, when communicating with your crew – maintain a minimum of 6 ft in distance. **USE ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION** when others are around. Keep in mind your volume and tone.
4. Use your own flag when working a game with a full crew. Does not matter if the flags do not match. USE YOUR OWN FLAG when you are the assistant referee.
5. Exit and entering the field as a team of 3, keep your distance – 6 ft apart please. Set the example from the beginning to the end of the match to all involved with the game.

Additional Referee gear:

1. If it will make you feel better to wear a mask, please do. I would prefer it to be black.



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2. ***Hand sanitizer***, this should have been a staple in everyone's referee bag the moment you became a referee. I recommend you all have a travel size hand sanitizer in your bag and USE IT!
3. If it will make you feel better to wear gloves, go ahead. However, it would be just as good to be aware of NOT touching your face and using the hand sanitizer in between games.
4. Water bottles make sure you have your name on them. Keep them in your bag. When in doubt if it is your water – get a new one.

In between games protocol:

1. Stay 6 ft apart. If the area does not allow for it because of tight quarters. Expand the referee area. Bring a chair, return to your car.

Associations

Your local associations may have some additional guidelines. Be sure to check in with your referee assignor.

Be sure to follow State and local medical guidelines in reference to covid-19 Return to Youth Sports guidelines – <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Sports-Operators.pdf>