

NHFOA COVID-19 Guidelines Committee Report Revised 8.19.20 (final)

Attendees: T. Viola, R. Moran, L. Brockett, R. Haynes and M. Piselli on August 3, .

Scope of Meeting: To identify safety guidelines and procedures for the NHFOA to perform officiating duties during the COVID-19 period.

Goals:

- To protect the health of our members while participating in all Board activities.
- To protect our ability to meet our obligation of providing qualified game officials to the leagues and schools we are contracted with.

Recommendations:

The CIAC developed a **COVID-19 Athletic Monitoring Form** (see below)

COVID-19 Athletic Monitoring Form

Circle Yes/No Below

Date:	Player Name																	
Fever or Chills	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cough	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Nasal Congestion or Runny Nose	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Sore Throat	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Diarrhea	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Nausea or Vomiting	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Fatigue	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Headache	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Muscle or Body Aches	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
New Loss of Taste or Smell	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Temp (If Higher Than 100.3)																		

The Committee recommends that:

- Each Member Official should refer to the COVID-19 Athletic Monitoring Form prior to attending any in person NHFOA function (meetings/clinics/social gatherings). They should not attend the NHFOA function if they are experiencing any of the symptoms listed on the form.
- A Member Official should also not attend any in person NHFOA function if he has recently:
 - Traveled to a state listed on the <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel-website>
 - Come in contact with one or more persons who are or are believed to be infected with COVID-19.
 - Been diagnosed with COVID-19
 - Has recently been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting results.
 - Started a prescribed or mandated quarantine period following a COVID-19 diagnosis. The official should not attend any NHFOA functions until such prescribed quarantine and retesting period has ended.
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- Each Member should refer to the COVID-19 Athletic Monitoring Form on the morning they are scheduled to officiate a contest. If they believe they are experiencing any of the symptoms listed, they should ask the Commissioner to be relieved of the assignment ASAP. The Official is not required to nor should he give any details of his medical condition when notifying the Commissioner.
- A Member Official who recently has:
 - Traveled to a state listed on the <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel-website>
 - Come in contact with one or more persons who are or are believed to be infected with COVID-19.
 - Been diagnosed with COVID-19
 - Has recently been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting results.
 - Started a prescribed or mandated quarantine period following a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Should notify the Commissioner ASAP and asked to be removed from any pending game assignments. The Official is not required to nor should he give any details of his medical condition or COVID related circumstances when notifying the Commissioner.

He should notify the Commissioner and declare himself available to work on the field once he has been cleared to work by his medical personnel and/or has satisfy any State/local travel quarantine period. Again, no medical or travel details need to be given to the Commissioner when doing this.

Opting out of any NHFOA in person function or assigned game due to any of the reasons listed above **will not affect a Members good standing with the Board**. The Commissioner reserves the right to waive the \$5 change fee for any Official he considers might be opting out of a game assignment for the reasons listed above.

Guidelines for Meetings and Clinics:

- The Committee recommends that any Member Official have the option to not participate in NHFOA in-person meetings or football games if they have concerns about COVID-19 exposure. The choice to not participate on this basis shall not affect an Official's good standing with the Board.
- The Committee recommends that the NHFOA schedule as many meetings/clinics outdoors or in the CT Sportsplex Bubble as possible. During these events the attending Officials will adhere to local social distancing and mask requirements.
- Attendance must be taken at all NHFOA meetings/clinics for any requested contract tracing purposes (from an outside legitimate source) in case a Member is diagnosed with COVID-19 after attending.
- Temperature checks may be performed at NHFOA sponsored meetings/clinics when the proper equipment is available. Temperatures will be checked but not recorded. Any member who registers a temperature over 100.4 degrees F will be asked to leave. This number is this minimum number for a possible fever per CDC guidelines.
- All NHFOA meetings attended by over twelve Members that are not held outdoors or in the CT Sportsplex Bubble shall be conducted online via Zoom, Google Meet, etc.
- We must enforce the local social distancing and mask requirements during all NHFOA organized social events. An example of this is a Friday night post game gathering of several crews at a local restaurant.

Additional Committee recommendations:

- Our NHFOA Board members shall be informed that any COVID 19 related costs such as special equipment purchases (i.e. electronic whistles, masks, etc.), testing, medical procedures and/or treatment will be the responsibility of the official.

- Prior to the start of the season, the Commissioner shall, once more, determine if there are any officials who wish to opt out of working on the field this season due to COVID 19 concerns. Officials who choose to opt out do not have to give details as to their reasoning to the Commissioner.
- All crew pre game meetings should be held outside, if possible, or in a private indoor location that will be limited to the crew and a limited amount of additional NHFOA members in attendance (i.e. an observer or Board officer). The crew will adhere to the local social distancing and mask requirements.
- Inform all crews that until further notice, each crew member will wear a mask during the game they are officiating. If they can maintain the required social distancing guidelines, their masks may be adjusted to allow for direct airflow during the contest. For example, an official may be able to temporarily lower his mask between plays if he is more than, say, seven yards away from the nearest player.
- During pregame meetings with coaches, the Referee and coach will agree on a ball rotation limit. We, as a Board, will determine a suggested ball rotation limit that will not adversely disrupt the flow of the games.
- If enough electronic whistles can be procured prior to the season, we recommend that Officials obtain them in case they are required. Officials should also give themselves enough time to become familiar with their use. However, the Committee is comfortable with whatever final guidelines the CIAC establishes regarding the use of whistles, traditional or electronic by the start of the season.
- Officials should not share water bottles or towels with each other or any player/staff member during the games they are officiating.
- If gloves are not worn, Officials should consider carrying a small bottle of hand sanitizer on their person when working a contest. They should use the hand sanitizer periodically as they see fit.
- The Board should consider adhering, if possible, to a number of the 2020 Football Rules Considerations as presented by the NFHS as long as they do not run counter any Considerations put forward by our Board, CIAC, or any other state or local governing Board with the proper authority.

References:

CIAC - The Connecticut Interscholastic Conference 2020-2021 Fall Sports Plan, Connecticut Reopening (Phase II) Sector Rule July 22, 2020.
 NFHS – 2020 Football Rules Considerations document