



Appendix F: Officials

Officials Return to Play

- If Officials maintain physical distant of 2 metres from the cohort participants, they can remain outside of the cohort numbers. This will allow officials to referee different games and multiple games in a day.
- The officials will limit communication with the players as much as possible and will attempt to be greater than 2m away when communicating with each other. It is recommended REFcom be used when possible.
- It is recommended officials travel to games individually and arrive dressed, no more than 15 minutes prior.
- Officials will not be able to use dressing rooms and should bring their own water or other fluids to drink.
- Officials must follow all local municipal mask regulations before and after the game.
- No officials should sign any paperwork on-site unless proper 2m distance can be maintained.
- It is recommended that officials wear a neck buff. If any emergent situation arises where they would need to be closer than 2m to cohort participants on a temporary/limited basis, they could pull the buff up over their nose and mouth, acting as a mask. "For example, in the event of a fumble, the officials may need to be closer than 2 M to determine which team has possession of the ball".
- Officials must sign the Informed Consent Form and submit it to your local FOA.

Game Changes:

- The team benches will be 2m back of the regular out of bounds line of a regular 65 yard field. The coaches must remain in the coaching area between the 40-yard lines. The players may be outside the 40 yard lines if this is required in order to maintain social distancing.
- Prior to the game, the coin toss will have one Coach from each team standing on the 50-yard lines the Referee will be on the 55-yard line.
- There will be no pregame meeting with the coaches, that discussion can take place during the coin toss.
- Officials must only touch their own flag and bean bag.
- One designated Offensive Player will bring their own clean ball in for each series of downs.
- One designated Offensive player will be responsible to retrieve the ball after each play and spot it at the appropriate location prior to each play. The Officials will direct this player where to place the ball.
- In order to remove 3 people from the cohorts it is recommended to not use yardsticks. Instead the Down Judge on first down will place his bean bag 10 yards from the initial line of scrimmage. The Down judge will make the sole determination from their position on the sideline whether a first down has been gained or not. The down judge will also be the official responsible to record what down it is. All the officials will confirm the down prior to every play, as they normally would.

Example of Officials Mechanics with Social Distancing for 9-A-Side Football:

- Referee located in the Offensive backfield, this official will begin the play a minimum of 2M behind and or to the side of the deepest offensive player (QB, RB, Punter or Kicker)
- The 2 Line of scrimmage officials (Down Judge and Line Judge) are on opposite sides of the field and will be in the 7.5 yard area between the normal sideline of a Canadian Football Field (65 yard width) and the pylon marking the sideline of the 50 yard wide 9-a-side field. These two officials will always stay in this area. They will make sure that they are at least 2m away from any wide out players.
- The fourth official (if used) will be the back umpire this official will be located at least 2m behind the deepest player in the defensive secondary, typically the safety They will always give every effort to maintain this distance.
- The two line of scrimmage officials will spot the football with their foot to mark the forward progress on each play, so the referee or back umpire can maintain their 2m distance. The designated offensive player will align the ball up with the official's foot and the opposite sideline official will signal to the referee that the spot is correct.

