



Return to Educate

Phase III consists of State Referee Committees (SRC) holding in-person courses and field sessions. The suggestions apply if the following are in place:

- Local shelter-in-place restrictions have been lifted
- Social distancing is still active
- No effective vaccine for COVID-19 is available
- All [WHO](#), [CDC](#), and Local Government Guidelines must be followed

Note: Please reference any State or County Academic guidelines or considerations for classroom size, etc. SRCs should consider holding local in-person trainings to limit participant travel

Part 1: Classroom Sessions

Note: SRCs are recommended to hold webinars in lieu of in-person classroom or field sessions. If your SRC feels that an in-person session is necessary, consider which trainings/assignments may be moved online to allow for a shorter in-person session and limit interaction.

Pre-Session

- SRCs should reserve rooms with a larger capacity than the number of registrants to ensure that participants can social distance (6 ft apart)
 - o I.E. reserve a room for 50 people if you have 15-20 participants
- Prior to the in-person sessions, SRCs should consider asking participants the following questions and having these reported to the lead instructor within a couple hours prior to the start of the course:
 - o Have you knowingly come into contact with anyone who has, is being tested for, or is exhibiting signs of coronavirus? (Yes or No)
 - o Are you exhibiting any of the following symptoms? (Yes or No)
 - Fever or chills
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- If a participant (or parent for minor participants) has answered yes to the questions above, is sick or has symptoms of an illness:
 - o Stay home regardless of if you have COVID-19 or not
 - o If you are confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 you should practice self-quarantine measures and contact your physician
 - o Obtain appropriate clearance from a medical provider to return to sport/discontinue self-quarantine



- If a participant has answered yes to the questions above or asked to reschedule last minute due to health concerns, please be understanding with this request. It is to the benefit for all participants and instructors that these individuals do not participate.
 - o Consider holding a replacement webinar for any walk-ins or ill participants
- Instructors should wear PPE before, during and after all sessions
- SRCs should have a confirmed list of attendees for the classroom session
- Instructors should avoid having participants share resources (i.e. printed documents, manuals, etc.)
 - o Any necessary handouts should be distributed during the check in process
- Participants should wear PPE (face covering and/or latex gloves) and instructors/admins should periodically clean using a viricidal cleaner (i.e. 70% alcohol solution or household bleach solution) and a disposable towel that can be disposed of immediately afterward
- Check in process:
 - o Verify participants' (and parents') contact information
 - o If possible, stagger arrival times to prevent participants from standing in close contact with the registration or check-in table
 - This can be avoided by calling attendance instead of a formal check in table

During Session

- Limit session to a couple hours to reduce the need for a lunch break
- If there are any items that needs to be transferred from human to human, please do so in accordance with local guidelines
- Bathroom usage should be limited to one or two at a time
- Extra hand sanitizer should be provided and frequent hand washing should be encouraged

Post Session

- Badges should be distributed in Ziplock bags or mailed to limit hand to hand contact
 - o Tip: Consider using [OSI's](#) badge distribution service. Contact [Julie Tobin](#) for more information
- Once the session is over, we recommend that all participants leave the indoor area
 - o Follow-up questions should occur via email
- Parents should remain in their cars during the designated pickup time

Part 2: Field Sessions

Prior to field session(s)

- Participants should come to the field sessions fully dressed; wearing PPE (face covering and latex gloves) when not participating in physically exertional activities
 - o Instructors should plan ahead for "PPE breaks" to avoid the discomfort or respiratory challenges that heat and humidity may cause during the summer months
- Participants should bring all of the equipment they will need for the field session with them as sharing is discouraged
- Participants should bring at least 2 water bottles; bottles should be clearly labeled with each participant's name
 - o Bottles should not be shared



- Participants should also plan on packing their own hand sanitizer and make sure to wash their hands before leaving their home
- Parents should remain in their cars during drop-off or pickup
- Instructors should wear PPE before, during and after all sessions
- Instructors should have a confirmed list of attendees for the field session
 - o Consider holding a replacement webinar or field session for any walk-ins or ill participants
- Prior to the in-person sessions, SRCs should consider asking participants the following questions and having these reported to the lead instructor within a couple hours prior to the start of the course:
 - o Have you knowingly come into contact with anyone who has, is being tested for, or is exhibiting signs of coronavirus? (Yes or No)
 - o Are you exhibiting any of the following symptoms? (Yes or No)
 - Fever or chills
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- If a participant (or parent for minor participants) has answered yes to the questions above, is sick or has symptoms of an illness:
 - o Stay home regardless of if you have COVID-19 or not
 - o If you are confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 you should practice self-quarantine measures and contact your physician
 - o Obtain appropriate clearance from a medical provider to return to sport/discontinue self-quarantine
- If a participant has answered yes to the questions above or asked to reschedule last minute due to health concerns, please be understanding with this request. It is to the benefit for all participants and instructors that these individuals do not participate.
 - o Consider holding a replacement webinar for any walk-ins or ill participants

Personal Stations for referees

- It is recommended that instructors set up a line of cones 6-feet apart in an area to the side of the training field. There should be 1 cone for each referee. When referees arrive at the field session, they should place their bag and drink bottle(s) on one of the available cones. This is their 'personal station' for the field session.
- Participants are advised not to bring any unnecessary belongings.

During the session

- Participants/Instructors should maintain a safe distance (6 ft) between themselves at all times
- Equipment should not be shared this is included but not limited to flags, whistles, etc.



- If a participant does not have a flag, an alternative (i.e. bib, paper, etc.) should be used in its place
- Instructors may provide extra equipment but it should be sanitized before, during and after the field sessions
- Instructors should avoid allowing participants to grab shared equipment from bins. Please leave the equipment at stations to avoid close interactions between participants
- Only the instructor should move cones or any SRC provided equipment to minimize contact
- Debrief Sessions
 - If multiple instructors are present, then smaller debrief sessions should be held in accordance with local CDC or government guidelines
 - If there are no additional instructors present, then a bullhorn or microphone should be used to ensure participants are able to hear the instructor while maintaining a safe distance 6-ft apart from each other
- Heat Considerations
 - SRCs should refer to U.S. Soccer's Recognize to Recover heat guidelines [here](#) as they prepare to host outdoor sessions

After the session

- All equipment should be sanitized using a viricidal cleaner (i.e. 70% alcohol solution or household bleach solution) and a disposable towel that can be disposed of immediately afterward.
- Parents should remain in their cars during the designated pickup time
- Once the session is over, we recommend that all participants leave the area as soon as possible
 - Follow-up questions should occur via email

Part 3: Games

Note: Please reference any State or County guidelines prior to returning to play. The following are guidelines that referees should follow should their local area allow games to be held in that area.

Personal Stations for referees

- It is recommended that the referee crew set up their belongings in an area off to the side of the game field
- Each referee's belongings should be spaced 6-ft apart from each other
- Referees are advised not to bring any unnecessary belongings
- Referees should arrive to the field fully dressed

Before the Game:

- If you are the assignor, please be understanding if a referee declines a game due to health concerns and work with them to ensure they are not exhibiting any symptoms prior to the game.
- Be conscious when accepting game assignments and do not accept a game if you are experiencing any symptoms. As an independent contractor you are not required to accept a game. It is your choice and you should take into consideration your comfort level. If you



decline a game, be respectful to the assignor and notify them as soon as possible to allow time for a replacement.

- If you start to exhibit symptoms after accepting a game, be in communication with your assignor and consider if you should decline the game at that time
- Before leaving for the field, Referees should answer the following questions for their assignor:
 - Have you knowingly come into contact with anyone who has, is being tested for, or is exhibiting signs of coronavirus? (Yes or No)
 - Are you exhibiting any of the following symptoms? (Yes or No)
 - Fever or chills
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - If referee answers yes to any of these questions, they should notify their assignor and refrain from officiating the game
- Field Inspections
 - Fields should still be walked
 - Physical Items (nets, goals, corner flags etc.) should be inspected visually
 - If a goal net needs to be repaired or an object needs to be removed from the field of play, only one referee should complete the task.
 - If there are any issues, then one (1) person should handle it to minimize contact
 - Tip: Referees should bring extra Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer
- Player Check in
 - Rosters (Consider the following alternatives)
 - If possible, discuss with your league if you can receive the match report ahead of time
 - If you cannot get the roster in advance, have the coach place the roster at the end of the bench to minimize close contact
 - Wear PPE - face coverings, nitrile or latex gloves
 - Uniform/Jewelry checks should be visible checks only, maintaining 6-ft between the referee(s) and the player(s)
- Uniform Conflicts
 - Gold referee uniforms are the recommended color to avoid clashing
 - If the referee has spare colors for their uniform, it is recommended you keep them on hand to prepare for any conflicts
- Equipment
 - Equipment should not be shared
 - Balls should be sanitized before, during and after the game by the home team
 - Please refer to the [PLAY ON Recommendation Guides](#) for more information on equipment sanitation
- We recommend **no player walkouts and handshakes** prior to and at the end of the game



- Please speak with your assignor prior to the game to confirm your League's stance on this
- Medical Situations
 - Remain 6 ft away from the injured player while determining if medical attention is needed
 - If so, a medical professional or a coach from the player's team should attend to the injured player
 - Remind players to social distance during the break in play
- Team benches and spectators positioning
 - Team bench personnel should practice social distancing and wear masks while in the Technical Area following local public health guidelines
 - Spectators should maintain at least 10 ft distance from the touchline to allow social distancing from the ARs
 - Spectators should maintain 6 ft distance from each other and wearing PPE (face coverings)
 - Communicate with coaches to enforce spectator social distancing
- Coin Toss
 - Only the owner of the coin should touch the coin
 - Maintain 6 ft social distancing during coin toss

Halftime:

- Home team's coach is responsible for sanitizing the ball
- It is recommended referees use hand sanitizer during halftime and maintain 6 ft social distancing
- Referees should wear PPE (face coverings)
- Referees should keep their equipment separated and sanitize their whistles and flags

After the game:

- **Avoid any handshakes or high fives** after the game
 - This can be replaced with a wave
- When debriefing with your referee crew, find a space where everyone can be seen and heard while maintaining 6 feet of distance
- Upon arrival home, referees should immediately wash hands, bathe including washing hair, and launder/clean items used
- If working multiple games, wipe down or sanitize your equipment to the best of your ability between games
- If you need the coach's signature, place the paper down on the end of the bench and step away to have them sign it
- Once the game is over and the referee crew has debriefed, vacate the field. Do not congregate
- Should you encounter any difficulty implementing these guidelines, please make a comment on your game report and share with the State Referee Administrator (SRA) for your State Referee Committee (SRC)