



SUTHERLAND SHIRE
FOOTBALL REFEREES ASSOCIATION

SSFA COVID-19 RULES CHANGES

Guidelines for Match Officials

2nd July 2020 – Zoom Webinar

SSFA Match Philosophy

SSFA will be trying to play as much football as possible.

- In case of **rain**, only unplayable grounds will be closed – all games at fields still open will proceed as normal
- If a team turns up and doesn't have enough players and **forfeits**, they can borrow anyone (within reason and must be registered and on match card) and the game should be played. *If there is a forfeit record this on the match sheet – e.g. 'Forfeit – friendly match played'*
- The SSFA (in conjunction with clubs) will be scheduling friendly matches with teams who have **byes** throughout the season

SSFA COVID-19 Rules Changes

Rules changes by SSFA for 2020 in response to COVID-19 include:

- Borrowing rules – have been modified for 2020 – any questions should be referred to the club secretary as they are not the referee's responsibility
- Technical Areas where possible will be on opposite sides of the field – the home team gets first choice – any issues refer to Ground Control
- Up to 18 players may be on the match sheet for each team and used in the match

All rules changes can be found at

<https://shirefootball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Covid-19-By-Law-E.pdf>

Cautions and Send-offs

- Caution and Send Off Forms still need to be submitted (either online or at the Referee Rooms as required)
- The Referee Rooms will be open as usual at Harrie Denning (Bates Drive) on Sunday nights,
- Referees should bring their own pens.
- We are still waiting on confirmation of any changes to JC/DP



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FNSW COVID-19 PROTOCOL

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Game Day - Participation

All Referee Branch members willing to participate in their nominated capacity for the 2020 Community Football season may do so. This includes:

- Active Match Officials,
- Referee Coaches/Assessors, and
- Committee Members

Members displaying cold/flu like symptoms should not participate in matches, training, meetings, or any other football activities.

Game Day - Preparation

Referees 'Toolkit' should include:

- Download the COVIDsafe App
- Soap
- Antibacterial wipes
- Sanitiser
- Ensure whistles have been sanitised after each day
- Bring your own drink bottle – clearly labelled with your name
- Your regular kit items

Game Day - Arrival

- 30 minutes prior to play to inspect fields/warm-up/complete administration (normal procedure)
- Maintain the 1.5 social distancing protocol
- Arrive in uniform (bring spare shirts if required) and a jacket

Game Day – Pre-match

- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres before and after matches
- Sanitise regularly
- Physical contact such as shaking hands is not allowed
- Do not share clothing. If this means referee teams are wearing different colours, so be it.
- Do not share equipment, including stationary. This includes 'sharing' flags with Club Assistant Referees and the use of electronic Communication Systems.
- Do not share drinks, snacks, lollies etc

Game Day – Pre-match

- There are no team line ups or handshakes at halfway
- ID cards will be checked by the manager of the opposing team before the game NOT on the field
- Captains only will be required for the coin toss and they should maintain social distancing – the referee should keep the coin in their control at all times

Game Day – Change Room

- Unless you need to use a change room, then don't
- After completing their matches, officials should leave the change room & remove their belongings
- Shower at home post-match

The only people that should be in the referees change room are:

- Referee
- Referee's coach
- One representative of the home team who will be responsible for supplying payment and/or team sheets

Game Day – Change Room

In situations where there are multiple 'teams' of officials using a change room that is not large enough to allow for social distancing measures to be taken (maintaining a 1.5m distance), it should be the responsibility of the referee team going ON to the next match to be ready & vacate the change room BEFORE the completion of the previous match.

Game Day – During the Match

- Do not touch players for any reason
- Referees are to follow the LOTG only. WE ARE NOT THE COVID POLICE – clubs have COVID officers appointed.
- Spitting should be discouraged; however, **referees should apply the Laws of the Game only & sanction a player only if they are guilty of spitting at a person**
- Assistant Referees are to use their own flags
- No electronic Communication Systems are to be used

Game Day – Post Match

- Officials should leave in their uniform and shower at home
- Sanitise equipment including whistles
- In the event of an Official testing positive for COVID-19, they should contact their Referee Branch and FNSW Referee's Department.

Return to Football - 2020

Please send questions to

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The complete FNSW presentation is in the Library on our website (www.ssfra.org.au)