



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Referee Committee

EPSARC.org

August 9, 2020

The goal of the Entry Level Referee course is to present our new students with a clear understanding of what it takes, and what it means, to be a United States Soccer Referee. This is accomplished through a series of mandated online lessons, self-taught work by the student, and an in-person field session.

Considering COVID-19, guidelines and restrictions have been established by EPSARC. As Instructors, we must adhere to this protocol to maintain a safe and healthy training environment.

The conditions during this pandemic have continually evolved and changed weekly, sometimes daily. We know additional information and new guidelines are forthcoming. They will change at any time, so we must be flexible. These guidelines will be updated as necessary.

This document does not replace the advice or direction of medical professionals. The risks of infection still exist. Until a vaccine or cure is developed for COVID-19, we must proceed cautiously and continue to monitor and comply with the Governor's office, PA Department of Health, CDC and any other federal or local regulations.

As we look to re-start our instruction for 2020, we need to make some modifications to our training to meet CDC, State and National COVID-19 precautions. Our modifications are outlined below.



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Pre-session

1. Prior to the field session, each attendee will now be required to electronically sign an EPSARC waiver/COVID-19 document via DocuSign. This will help reduce contact.
2. No paperwork will be turned in at the field session.
3. Attendees must now come with their own Whistle, Red/Yellow Cards, Flags, personal hand sanitizer as needed and face mask for to/from field. You cannot share equipment other than a ball.
4. Attendees will be asked to bring a folding chair.
5. We will maintain a maximum ratio of 12 students per instructor.

Arrival

1. Clearly convey between all students, instructors, and coordinators the address of the field, and where everyone will meet.
2. Instructors are to bring their equipment (cones and balls) that have been sanitized or disinfected with wipes prior to use. Instructors should also have a face mask and wear it as much as possible when not in active drills or cannot maintain 6 feet social distancing
3. Instructors should place cones appropriately for students to use as a home base for gear and personal belongings.
4. Every person must arrive wearing a mask.
5. Always maintain 6 ft social distancing.
6. Take attendance using a clipboard; do not pass this around.
7. Do not accept any paperwork at the field.
8. Attendees must now come with their own Whistle, Red/Yellow Cards, Flags, personal hand sanitizer as needed and face mask for to/from field. You cannot share equipment other than a ball.
9. Give a brief introduction, explaining how the field session will work. (We will have this in writing and sent to every student ahead of time too.)

Running the field session

1. All students should arrive in uniform (not mandatory)
2. All students must have their own equipment: Flags, whistle, red/yellow cards, watch
3. Students will be divided into groups of no more than 12 per instructor. Each group will occupy a different half of the field. If we have 3 instructors, there will be less per group, and a rotation for using the goal areas will be established.



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4. Instructors will provide soccer balls for the drills. These can be cleaned periodically during the session.
5. We will not distribute or use pinnies.
6. Masks do not need to be worn during the drills (unless of course someone wants to) if social distancing can be maintained.
7. Field Sessions are critical to simulate active game play.

Classroom/Lecture

1. To augment and reinforce key learnings from the online material, additional instruction should be given in areas such as, fouls, misconduct and restarts. It is imperative that we review this with them.
2. Since no two facilities are going to be the same, use best judgment on how to make this happen keeping safety first front and foremost.
3. If there is a pavilion or seating area, the groups will rotate in to use it, at all times maintaining social distance.
4. Tables and chairs should be wiped down after each use.
5. If no seating area is available, find a nice grassy area to sit. Set up folding chairs brought by students. Smaller groups should allow better separation.
6. Masks must be worn during any lecture session.

Administrative information

1. One of the learning blocks of the session will be “What to do next” covering what the ref needs to know as far as recertifying, how to get games, mentor program, assignors, etc. This should be conducted similar to the Classroom/Lecture procedures above.

At the end

1. Congratulate your group on a job well done.
2. Hold after-session conversations to a minimum.
3. No need to shake hands – just have a general round of applause for everyone!
4. Follow up via email to answer any questions.
5. Badges will be mailed USPS.



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FAQs:

[What if an attendee does not come with a mask?](#)

Masks are required. The attendee will be asked to acquire one or leave.

[What if someone does not bring their own equipment?](#)

It still may be possible for them to participate, using their hand to simulate flag, cards, etc. But they CANNOT share any other person's equipment.

[Does 1-12 ratio of instructor to student really provide the distance needed?](#)

Yes, we believe it is very possible to stagger the field sessions to allow social distancing at a max of 1-12.

[Should Parents stay to watch the session?](#)

Parents are encouraged to remain in their cars or another area. We want to minimize additional contacts.

[What if I believe someone is ill?](#)

If you suspect someone is not well, you may need to ask them some questions similar to the COVID-19 waiver. If noticed at check in, you should send them home at that time. If noticed during the session, you will need to postpone the training. You should immediately notify EPSARC at (610) 590-7268 and/or EPSARCOffice@gmail.com.

[What if there is a storm and we must move to a pavilion or other shelter.?](#)

Always check weather forecasts prior to events and ensure you have a backup just like you would in a game situation. If a pavilion or other area does not allow for social distancing, you must terminate the training.

[What if Pennsylvania Government moves my County into a yellow status from Green?](#)

EPSARC will do our best to monitor PA requirements. Should a class be scheduled and the county in which the class is being held changes their status, we will cancel the class in advance.

[How will the attendees get their badges?](#)

We will mail them via USPS to minimize contact.