



EPSARC Update September 4, 2020

As we approach Labor Day weekend with its customary tournaments and signifying the start of league play across the state, we wanted to provide some information and guidance regarding player uniforms and COVID.

COVID Protocols

We have received questions regarding COVID Protocols and the referee's role, so we want to address several important topics.

- While the referee continues to be the sole decider on what constitutes dangerous equipment, we must be mindful of the situation everyone is in. If a family decides that they would like their child to compete while wearing a mask, we must not overrule that decision.
- Players ARE ALLOWED to wear cloth or disposable face masks while playing. Neck gaiters, plastic face shields and other personal protective equipment could be considered dangerous and should not be worn.
- After being substituted and leaving the field, it is reasonable for a player to wait a few minutes to get a drink and catch their breath before putting on their mask.
- Coaches may pull down their mask to shout instructions to their players on the field as long as they pull their mask up immediately afterwards.
- It is the responsibility of the home team coach, not the referees, to enforce compliance with COVID Protocols of the field or venue.
- Coaches are responsible for all players, bench personal and spectators. Referees should work with head coaches to ensure their team complies with COVID Protocols, especially masks. When necessary, "Ask, Tell, Dismiss" should be used as a method to get everyone to comply.
- If you must dismiss a coach because of COVID non-compliance it is considered "Irresponsible Behavior" and MUST be documented as such in your game report.
- As an absolute last resort, referees may abandon a match.
- Any irregularities or inconsistencies should be noted in detail in your match report so that the leagues can properly address them.

We will update the referee community should protocols change.

Be sure to regularly visit EPSARC's COVID Protocols site [here](#) or visiting - <http://www.epsarc.org/referees/risk-management-and-covid-19/> to have the most up-to-date information.

If you have any questions, please contact us at EPSARCOffice@gmail.com.

Player Uniform Issues

Eastern PA Youth Soccer Association (our State Youth governing body) has informed us that nearly all uniform suppliers are seeing delays of 4-6 weeks.

Many clubs may not have their new or replacement kits ready for the start of the season.

Teams are working to best comply with uniform standards with the equipment they have. You may find players in different shades of the same color, tape/marker for numbers or the need to use pinnies.

EPYSA is asking that referees not adhere to strict player uniform standards and allow the players to participate, as long as the teams and players can be clearly distinguished.

New Referee Fees

Effective September 1st, 2020 there are new referee fees for league play and tournaments.

The current fee schedule can be found by clicking [here](#) or visiting our website at <http://www.epsarc.org/library/policies/>

2021 Recertification

EPSARC is opening up 2021 Online Recertification Courses starting this weekend.

Initially, referees will be separated into three categories:

- Grassroots Referees who are registered for 2020 and qualify for 2021 License Extension
- Grassroots Referees who are not registered for 2020 because requirements were met AFTER June 30th but would like to certify for the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021
- Grassroots Referees from a prior year but would like to certify for the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021

Keep an eye out for an email in the next few days with details on the 2021 Online Recertification Courses.

All EPSARC Update emails are archived as pdfs on our website by clicking [here](#) or visiting <http://www.epsarc.org/news/epsarc-update-emails/>

For the Good of the Game.
—Ian

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