

Dear Assignors,

Please make sure your referees know this information.

The following statement was sent out to all RCL Clubs today:

The face covering, covering both the nose and mouth, mandate for games is an absolute and no exceptions. There is no exception to the face covering mandate – even if an athlete has a note from his or her doctor confirming the player cannot play soccer while wearing a face covering.

Officials will check that the players have their face covering over both their nose and mouth prior to kick-off and at the start of the second half.

Players who repeatedly do not have their face covering over both their nose and mouth will be instructed by the referee to leave the field of play to correct the face covering. Once the face covering is properly positioned, with the referee's permission, a player can return to the field during the next stoppage of play.

Coaches are responsible for reminding players to wear their face covering properly. We encourage the coaches to work together to manage this process.

RCL Clubs/Directors are responsible for reminding their coaches about making sure their teams are compliant and for their coaches to wear their own face covering properly.

As a referee, what are your responsibilities:

- You will wear your face mask properly at all times. There are no exemptions to this mandate. This applies to the whole crew. You are expected to be a role model.
 - To wear a mask properly does not mean you can pull your mask down to blow the whistle. At this time, you are being asked to either use an electronic whistle or a specialized mask that attaches the whistle to the inside of the mask.
- We will work as a team (coaches and referee crew, including the AR) to remind players to wear their masks properly.
 - Officials will check that the players have their face covering over both their nose and mouth prior to kick-off and at the start of the second half.
 - Players who repeatedly do not have their face covering over both their nose and mouth will be instructed by the referee to leave the field of play to correct the face covering. Once the face covering is properly positioned, with the referee's permission, a player can return to the field during the next stoppage of play. (Refer to Law 4, Section 6 - Offences and Sanctions)
- We will not be issuing yellow or red cards for players not wearing their masks properly.
 - Do not stop play due to a player not wearing their mask properly.
 - Players are allowed “mask or breathing breaks” away from other players, and may forget to put their mask back up. This may require gentle reminders. If this is a persistent problem for a player, then refer back to the second bullet - instruct the player to leave the field of play.
 - Referees should only remind coaches to wear their masks properly if you feel that the referee crew is at risk.
 - Referees are not responsible for spectators wearing their masks properly.
- Except for high school matches, the handling of players not wearing masks properly will apply to all youth matches (RCL, NPSL, PSPL, ECNL, Recreational).

State Director of Instruction