

# FOOTBALL MODIFICATIONS FALL II 2021

## FACIAL COVERINGS

Facial coverings MUST be worn at all times during play and on sidelines

- Tube style “gaiters” are NOT permitted (for everyone)
- Balaclava style face coverings that are extended over the full head are permitted
- “Splash guards” are acceptable in addition to face masks
- Mask breaks may be taken for drinking, and when needed for breathing comfort. Mask breaks may only be taken when greater than 6 feet of distance can be maintained from all others and must be taken on the sideline.

## TEAM ROSTERS (we will NOT need to enforce any of these)

- Team rosters for game day competition on the field cannot exceed 45 players
- Maximum of 6 coaches
- Teams are required to delineate with a physical marker (cone, spray paint etc.) the social distancing requirements (6 ft) for their players and coaches while on the sideline area.
- In order to limit the total number of people in proximity to the field of play, game day personnel with an assigned responsibility are the only people permitted on the sidelines.
- Teams must work to reduce the number of players on the sideline. Injured players with no ability to play in a contest are not permitted on the sidelines.
- Dressed players should be those with a potential opportunity or need to play.
- Coaches must not have players in uniform on the sideline for the sole benefit of dressing and being with the team.
- Coaches must follow social distancing guidelines (6 feet) when interacting with an official or any other individual. Conversations can occur at a distance. Athletes should not approach a referee closer than 6 feet at any time.
- It is recommended that swing players should be limited when possible.
- Each team is responsible for their own:
  - Sanitizer
  - Face coverings
  - Towels, water, ice, med kit, footballs

## SIDELINES

- The Team Box is expanded to the 10 Yard Lines for players ONLY. Coach’s must still stop at the 25 Yard Lines.
- To allow for 6’ social distancing for all game officials, the coaches’ area minimum of 2-yard belt between the front of team box and the sideline becomes a restricted area when the ball is live.
- No player, non-player, or coach shall be in the restricted area when the ball is live. First offense warning, second 5-yard penalty and subsequent violations result in a 15-yard penalty. We will not eject a coach if a team receives 2 or more 15-yard penalties for this violation.
- Chains should be outside the 2-yard belt as well
- Teams may use bleachers behind their bench area to help keep social distance

## HUDDLES

- Teams should keep distancing between players and they should all be facing same direction
- Team should consider hand signals/signage from sideline
- No hand holding in huddles/during anthem
- Bottom line, limit close contact and/or huddles when possible

## **COIN TOSS**

- Referee, Umpire, and 1 player from each team
- Held at mid-field, keep 6-foot social distance

## **TIMING CHANGES**

- Mandatory water breaks at the halfway point of each quarter signaled by the referee at first change of possession after the 6:00 mark in the quarter.
- Team Time-outs are extended to a maximum 2 minutes.
- The intermission between periods (first/second and third/fourth) as well as the time period following a try, successful field goal or safety and prior to the succeeding free kick will also be extended to a maximum of two minutes.
- Authorized team time-out conferences will take place near the bottom of the field numbers between the 25 Yard Lines.
- Half-Time is 10 minutes, followed by the mandatory 3-minute warm-up period

## **OFFICIALS**

- Should plan to come dressed or be prepared to change in your car
- Restroom facility can be provided by the home school if possible (this is not a guarantee)
- Be prepared to have any pre-game discussions outside and maintain social distance
- Bring your own water/Gatorade (to the field as well)
- Electronic Whistles are approved for use
- Umpire has the option to work in offense backfield (we will review mechanics)
- MIAA expects to limit "ball chasers" on the sidelines, be prepared to go get the ball to put it back in play
- On long incomplete passes, wings can look to get another ball if possible to put in play quicker
- Clock Operators must maintain social distancing where the clock is kept. Masks required for all personnel in the press box as well.