

To: All NCSRA referees

From: Paul James, State Referee Administrator

Re: Under revised Governor's Order all participants in a soccer match must wear a face mask at all times, including active play

Date: 11-30-2020

With the latest revision to Governor Cooper's COVID19 Restrictions Order ALL personnel at a soccer game must be wearing a face mask covering their mouth and nose, including officials and players, even while the game is underway. It is not optional.

Referees are NOT to actively enforce this through cautions, send offs, etc. Referees should, as with our earlier COVID19 procedural instructions, request compliance from players and coaches. In the event of non-compliance, referees are directed to stop the match until compliance is observed and if this cannot be achieved in a reasonable time frame the officials are directed to abandon the game and report the non-compliance.

By way of example, a player tries to enter the field as a substitute but he does not have a mask on. The referee should request the player to obtain a mask so the game can resume. The game will NOT resume unless all personnel are appropriately masked. If the player will not or cannot comply he can leave the field and team bench area and the game can restart or if he does not leave, the game will be abandoned. Since all personnel should be wearing a mask at all times, non-compliance should be easily discerned before a player ever gets on the field.