



GUIDELINES FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

For this document 'Referees' refers to all match officials

INTRODUCTION

This document is designed to give advice to Referees on the return of games and officiating at matches.

All advice is based on the Government, HSE and Gaelic Games guidelines which provides guidelines for the safe return of the games.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Guidelines on Safe Return to Gaelic Games.

<https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19>

Gaelic Games are community based and participation is voluntary, and all Referees and match officials may choose to opt-in or opt-out from activity at any level at their discretion. If a referee 'opts-in' they will be added to the active referee list and it will be their sole responsibility to adhere to all guidelines below.

BEFORE YOU RETURN

- **All referees/match officials** must complete the Gaelic Games Return to training module on GAA eLearning website. Referees will need to forward a screenshot/copy of their certificate to the County Administrator who is the Referee Covid Supervisor.
<https://courses.gaa.ie/Covid19ClubEd/#/>
- Referees will not be added to the appointments list until they have completed the training module and the health questionnaire. By completing these a referee is 'opting in' to be involved in Gaelic games
- Complete COVID-19 health questionnaire online before first match. The completed form will be forwarded to the County Referee Covid Supervisor prior to assignment of any games. If any of these symptoms change for games after that you must update the form and notify the Referee Covid Supervisor. <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19resources>
- If between the acceptances of the game and the match fixture the referee notices some of these symptoms, or high temperature the referee should withdraw from the game and notify the appropriate person and committee in charge of fixtures plus the Referee Covid Supervisor.
- By the referee accepting the game, the referee is confirming that s/he has had none of the symptoms of Covid 19 since completing the questionnaire.
- **Umpires/Linespeople** should also complete the steps above before they return to officiate at a game. It's the responsibility of the referee to ensure their team of official have complied with the regulations. The referee will be the point of contact, should it arise, for contact tracing for their umpires. They should use their club as designated Covid Supervisor.
- Officials should be aware of the risks that exist for vulnerable people and for umpires over the age of 70 years, the Government and HSE guidelines should be followed. In effect anyone over the age of 70 should consult with their GP before deciding to return for games
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/people-at-higher-risk.html>

COVID SUPERVISOR

- The Referee Covid Supervisor will ensure all guidelines are being followed by referees and matches officials during this time and liaise for any queries for this group.

TRAVEL TO/FROM THE VENUE

- The referee, where possible, should travel alone, or with a member of the same household.
- Umpires/Linesperson, where possible, should travel alone, or with a member of the same household.
- Referees to arrive no more than 45 minutes prior to game commencing and must depart directly after the game
- Referee and match official see social distances regulations below.

CHECK IN

- Check in and confirm attendance with Covid Supervisor of home team.
- Health Questionnaire Form should be completed prior to first game which links to the Referee Covid Supervisor and then revisited prior to every game before accepting an appointment.
- Referees must go immediately on to the pitch area post check in.
- For all matches competitive and challenges games the referee should be approved by the county board and have completed regulations.

CLUBHOUSE AND FACILITIES

- All Clubhouses are to remain closed until instructed otherwise, except for toilet facilities
- Referees must bring their own water bottle and must NEVER share it
- Referees must provide their own equipment (Whistles, cards etc.) and this must NEVER be shared with anyone. All equipment should be cleaned thoroughly before and after use using disinfectant wipes or similar.
- All GAA grounds will have a sanitizer station and referees should ensure that they use this area when needed throughout their visit.

PITCH

- Social Distancing rules should be observed when dealing with all players, team managers and club officials at the venue and especially when briefing your team on the day.
- Risk associated with team sheets and substitution slips is minimal. But when receiving the team list the referee should sanitise their hands afterwards.
- Referees should ensure that the substitution is made through them and they should take note of same in their notebook then and there. The slips should be provided at halftime and at the end of the game, referees should sanitise their hands after receiving them.
- It is important that referees are strong in relation to the application of the rules and to ensure that players or mentors do not get too close if arguing over a decision.
- The rules in each association deal with, deliberately spitting at, or any deliberate physical contact with a match official as a red card offence.

POST MATCH

- If a referee becomes unwell after a game, they should first contact their GP/HSE/NHS and then inform the Referee Covid Supervisor who will liaise with clubs involved. The club will then follow advice provided to them by the HSE/NHS on the next steps.

SOCIAL DISTANCING BEHAVIOURS

- Referees must refrain from handshakes, clapping hands etc.
- Practice good cough/sneeze etiquette and dispose of any used tissue in a responsible manner
- Avoid touching your face
- Interaction between Referees, players and other officials should generally be kept to a minimum
- At halftime, and at the end of the game the Referee should ensure that he has use of hand sanitiser
- Avoid the following: spitting, clearing nostrils, sharing water bottles, touching high contact surfaces (e.g. door handles)

Please note it is a breach of the protocols to referee any club game prior to 29th June and any county game prior to 14th September