

Refs,

One last note, this one regarding face masks. Let me preface by saying I KNOW some people cannot wear them due to existing respiratory conditions, personal preference, etc. Please don't bombard me with emails -- I UNDERSTAND! I'm just sharing information as I currently have it.

In all likelihood, facemasks MAY be part of our equipment this season. The "powers that be" across all organizations fully realize that for some people, wearing a facemask may not be an option. For example, I know that the OHSAA has published protocols for volleyball, and it is permitted but not required for officials to wear a facemask.

With regard to facemasks, here are the discussions I've heard thus far:

- 1 - Facemasks should be a solid color (consider white, black, blue)
- 2 - No logos, mascots or designs
- 3 - PAVO is currently developing a mask with the Certified Volleyball Official logo on it, and of course that one will be acceptable for collegiate or USAV competitions; it's not available yet but you can keep an eye on the website for updates: vbofficialsgear.com
- 4 - It will be a good idea to carry multiple masks with you, especially for tournament situations, to allow you to change masks when needed

So whether you use a handheld "e-whistle" or try using a whistle beneath a mask, these may apply. Again, these are comments from preliminary discussions. When/if guidelines are published, I will share those. (Hand sanitizer is also an item you should start carrying in your ref bag, if you don't already. I'd be stocking up for the fall season - sometimes that stuff is hard to find!)

Just trying to get folks thinking about what the upcoming seasons may look like! And as a side note, here are some important details if you work OHSAA volleyball, so please check out their Return to Play Recommendations, which includes match protocols:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Home/OHSAA-COVID-19-Correspondence> (Click on "Volleyball")

Have a good weekend! Planning a virtual online meeting for next week. I'll send details soon.

Brian Hemelgarn
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