

Referees,

I've received many questions about selecting a handheld whistle for use during the upcoming high school, collegiate and/or USAV seasons. Reports on their use is still mixed. Below is what I know so far.

There seem to be three popular versions, in alphabetical order:

Fox - <https://www.fox40world.com/whistles-attachments>

Tandem - [http://tandemsport.com/store/products/Electronic Whistle.html](http://tandemsport.com/store/products/Electronic_Whistle.html)

Windsor -

<https://www.amazon.com/Windsor-Three-Tone-Electronic-Whistle/dp/B019C019S6>

You can do a Google search or search on YouTube where you can watch some short video clips and hear the whistles.

I've spoken with a number of referees who have used these, and based on their feedback, the Tandem or the three-tone Windsor (using tone #2) may be the most audible. Again, that feedback is from a limited number of referees.

Online stores may currently be out of stock. With the high school and collegiate seasons (hopefully) a little over a month away, I would suggest you start looking now.

There are also a variety of masks, including a mask with a "whistle pouch" from Fox40, that are roomy enough to use a whistle beneath them. BUT, my gut feeling is that the handheld is what will be recommended.

The officiating world is changing for all sports. At least for the short term, we should begin adapting and preparing for the "new normal," even if it is temporary.

If you have any practical experience using the handheld whistles, I'd encourage you to start a thread on the OVR Online Officiating Forum to share your experiences: <https://ohiovalleyregion.proboards.com/>

Best,

Brian Hemelgarn  
OVR Referees' Chair