

Play Together MN- Referee Shortage Symposium

December 15, 2021





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Organizations Attending

- Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC)
- National Sports Center (NSC)
- Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS)
- MN Hockey
- MNRPA
- North Region/USA Volleyball
- Twin Cities Soccer Leagues (TCSL)
- Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA)
- St. Paul Parks & Rec
- Minnesota Twins
- St. Paul Saints

Sports parents are horrible and referees are finally doing something about it — quitting



The Wells Warriors of College Park, Md., finally had a game Dec. 5, after three games in a row were canceled because of a nationwide referee shortage. (Petula Dvorak/The Washington Post)





Much like bus drivers, baristas and servers — the folks who earn chicken-scratch pay in jobs that include a mountain of abuse — refs have had <u>coronavirus</u> time away from the chaos and realize they're done with it.

Yes, adults are piling on the kids — the <u>young</u> <u>refs</u> who were just like their own kids, on the ice or the field a few years ago — and driving them away, one of the older refs I talked to told me. And that's a problem, because **there are more referees over 60 than there are under 30**, according an Aspen Institute <u>project</u> on youth sports.

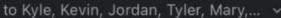
I talked to the two refs who officiated at my son's game to ask them for their parent horror stories. **They said coaches are the bigger problem.** The local referee association sent letters to coaches, warning them there would be no referees — and therefore no games — if the level of disrespect and abuse continued.



@MSHSLjohn the certified officiating shortage strikes again! Great creativity used by @WDCAD! We were suppose to officiate the girls JV/V games at Wadena-Deer Creek tonight between WDC and Pine River-Backus. (1/2)



Gallant, Norman 9:27 AM





Kyle-

We made some Changes tonight.

The reason is because not one of 13 referee associations within 150 miles could find two refs for tonight's game in Bertha for our Boys Game.

Unless we get more certified officials, we will be doing more creative scheduling or some games will be lost. If anyone reading this is interested in becoming a certified official, please go to the Minnesota State High School League at MSHSL.org to find out how.



WDC boys basketball teams were suppose to go to Bertha-Hewitt, but because of certified officials shortage, they are traveling to Wadena. So us 3 certified officials will do both varsity games. And the @WDCAD has to find 2 officials to do the sub-varsity games.

10:23 AM · Dec 14, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

10:21 AM · Dec 14, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone





11:00 AM

- 1. Review and Approve Play Together MN Mission & Code of Ethics
 - 1. Review media kit and PR push timeline & entities
 - 1. Discuss On-Site Referee Expo Event on NSC Campus
 - a. Tentatively Saturday February 12, 9-Noon
 - b. Sport bodies, referee certifiers, assigners that need to attend
 - c. Keynote Speaker?
 - d. On-site breakout demo (field sports, court sports, ice sports)

12:00 PM

1. DEED Presentation by from Liz Jennings (DEED Employer Engagement Specialist)

12:30 PM

1. Lunch & Discuss



October Meeting - MASC's Role

What role can the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission play in helping reverse the trend?

- (To Do) Work with the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
 - Utilize website to attract "job seekers" (Action) DEED Present's today
- Share data and information from MN Youth Sports orgs on referee shortage through website/press release
 - (To Do) We need a centralized "youth sports message" around the referee shortage (Action)
 Play Together MN Doc
 - (To Do) State/local press is starting to cover youth sports shortage. Let's leverage this exposure –
 (Action) PTMN Press Release
- (To Do) Hold on-site referee summit at the National Sports Center (Action) Referee Expo 2/12
 - Host Speakers in meeting hall/stadium
 - Breakout into sport-specific sessions in respective facilities
 - Investigate ways to pay individuals to be trained
- Other Ideas?
- DISCUSSION What are common needs/issues that we all agree on?













Date: Saturday February 12

Time: 9am-12pm

Who: Sport bodies, referee certifiers, assigners that need to attend

Attendees: All individuals interested in becoming a referee

Format:

- 1. Trade show format
- 2. Keynote Speaker?
- 3. On-site breakout demo (field sports, court sports, ice sports)

Marketing: Press Release from MASC

- 1. Introducing Play Together MN
- 2. Discuss Referee shortage and how it effects youth sports in MN
- 3. Call to Action: Attend referee expo at the National Sports Center



Ways to Improve Sportsmanship at Youth Sporting Events

Pre-Game Coaches Meetings – Establishing A Landscape of Mutual Respect

Training Players,
Coaches, and Parents to
Have Respect for
Officials

Sportsmanship Signs

Purple Cards

On-Site Monitoring of Spectators

Game Cancellations

Unsportsmanlike behavior by parents, spectators, coaches, and participants at youth athletic events has become a national epidemic. It has led to a dramatic decline in youth sports participation and has been cited as the main reason sports officials quit. Because of this shortage of sports officials locally and nationwide, and because of the exodus of youth athletes from organized sports, solving the sportsmanship issue is critical to the continued growth and enjoyment of amateur athletics.

Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Settings are encouraged to follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person - regardless of vaccination status - is experiencing the following symptoms.

- More common: fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
- Less common: sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

For people with

 ONE "less common" symptom.

Evaluate symptom and determine if person is well enough to stay in school or program.

Siblings and all others who live in the house DO NOT need to go home or stay home.

Well enough to attend or stay in school or

Evaluation from a doctor/health care provider

and/or gets a COVID-19 test for symptom(s).

Send the ill person home. Consider an evaluation from a doctor/health care provider and/or getting a COVID-19 test.

Person with symptom returns to school or program 24 hours after symptom improves.

alternative diagnosis.

Siblings and all others who live in the house return to school or program.

For people with

- ONE "more common"
- TWO "less common" symptoms OR
- ANY symptom (more or less common) during day 8-14 of a shortened quarantine.

Person should stay home or symptom OR at least



Siblings and all others, who are not fully vaccinated or have not had lab confirmed COVID-19 within last 90 days. and who live in the house should stay home or be sent home.

Does not seek evaluation from doctor/health care provider or get a COVID-19

Receives positive COVID-19 test result.

Siblings and all others who are not fully vaccinated or have not had lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days and who live with them should stay home and away from all activities for at least 14 days (quarantine). Day 1 of quarantine starts the day after their last day of contact (Day 0) with the person who has COVID-19 symptoms.

Receives negative COVID-19 test result OR



If the person tests positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms they should stay at home and away from others who live in the house (isolation) for at least 10 days from the time the symptoms started and until symptoms have improved and they have had no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. If they have no symptoms but test positive, they should stay home for 10 days counting from the day they were tested.

For people who are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

A close contact is ANY person who lives in the same household as a person who tested positive for COVID-19 OR someone who has been within about 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more throughout the course of a day (24 hours).

Close Contact should stay home from ALL ACTIVITIES during your quarantine period. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have had lab confirmed COVID-19 within last 90 days do not need to guarantine but should monitor for symptoms.

A 14-day guarantine is the safest recommendation for people who have been exposed to COVID-19. MDH also provides suggestions for programs to consider a shortened guarantine period of 7 or 10 days. Schools, Youth Programs, and Child Care should determine when it is appropriate to use a shortened quarantine period and are encouraged to follow: How long to stay away from others (quarantine)

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus, close.html#long

If the person who is a close contact develops any of the more or less common symptoms and/or has a positive test result, follow second path for people with ANY symptom (more or less common) during quarantine.

Updated Decision Tree (5.27.21)

https://www.health.state. mn.us/diseases/coronaviru s/schools/exguide.pdf



It appears COVID will be an issue again this winter. With schools going back into session and the season's changing, I would expect COVID-19 cases to increase for youth athletes.

Monitor for Symptoms even if Vaccinated

Have a plan for contact tracing:

- 1. Vaccinated Individuals do not need to quarantine when exposed to a positive case, however, they should diligently monitor for symptoms.
- 2. Un-vaccinated individuals will be held to quarantine recommendations from last year.
 - 10 days from date of exposure unless school requires 14-day quarantine

MDH guidance is guidance, not requirements. We can still help a team with exposure assessment or other questions if they have them, still at the same sports inbox email — MN_MDH_Sports.Covid19 health.Sports.Covid19@state.mn.us

^{*}If someone gets COVID, they should self-isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status