

# NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter Masks and Whistles

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Many of you have asked about ordering an electronic whistle - here are my suggestions (in order):

<https://www.allvolleyball.com/product/fox-40-mini-electronic-whistle/volleyball-essentials>

- try Fox 40 directly
- Isports for a whistle called Tandem
- ebay has some options
- look for dog training or soccer whistles (whistles that have approx 125 decibels)
- stay away from Amazon right now, they have been price gouging and many of their whistles are 'off-brands'

If you want a 'good' black mask (or white or navy) that are plain, my friend (Thang Nguyen) in Texas got some custom-made. They have been selling very well to referees across the country (a number of local referees have ordered them and I think can vouch for their comfort). To order email him (he's included as a copy on this message) or Facebook messenger him. You can pay by different methods. (Let him know if you need to mail a check.)



Masks Available Now \$20/pack of 2 masks plus \$5 shipping. Options available are solid white, black, or navy masks.

3-Layer Protection WHITE, BLACK, NAVY

Anti-Bacterial Washable Breathable Outer Layer Water Resistant UV Protection Skin Friendly Comfortable

**Venmo:** @Thang-Nguyen-13

**PayPal:** [Tgnmossimo@aol.com](mailto:Tgnmossimo@aol.com)

**Zelle/ApplePay:** 713-385-8664

Speaking of masks, a metro referee works at the UNMC Med Center and has these suggestions regarding your mask(s):

Having dealt with masks for the last 4 months at UNMC, I've learned a lot. I think officials will be tempted to stuff their mask when finished officiating into their referee bag – not a good idea – the bag is full of dirt and germs. The second worst place is storing it in a ziplock bag – those things attract moisture and a perfect environment for germs to grow. The very best way to store and transport a mask in a brown paper bag – either a brown lunch bag or what I have, is a brown paper bag with handles and I can write my name on the bag. Germ transmission is the least in this environment. All of our physicians transport their n95 masks in a paper sack with their name.

Personally, I would recommend that you wear a clean mask every day. Paper masks are fine, but I find that they slip a lot when you talk. No recommendations on the type, kind or color of mask have been determined. If you have a homemade mask that has a pattern, I think that would be fine. However, you should consider wearing a mask that does not draw too much attention to yourself. The 'gaiter' masks are fine too. However, I do not think a mask with a skeleton smile on it is appropriate for officiating.

Now is not the time to make a personal statement about wearing a mask. If a school requires it, then you need to follow it. If others in the crowd are not following the requirements, that is a school problem, not yours. You need to set the example and follow the rules if you want others to follow the rules you are enforcing. If you are uncomfortable wearing a mask (or just don't want to), you need to contact your schools now to find out their requirements. If they are requiring masks to be worn (but you do not want to comply), tell the school, so they can start looking now for a different referee(s). If there are not enough referees to go around this fall, schools might have to consider moving a date of a contest. Referees cannot be 'manufactured'. But schools have a right to know as soon as possible, if they need to make some adjustments.

I know we can successfully create 'safe' volleyball across the state. We cannot control what is outside of our purview, but we can control how we react in this situation. Let's make Nebraska High School volleyball a success story for others to see. So many states are cancelling or moving their fall sports to the late winter or early spring. I think we can make it happen now!!