

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #3

2018

We have definitely seen some upsets, so far this year. Some usual soccer super powers are not having a good start to their season and some perennial underdogs have had a great start. Don't take any game for granted!

Just a few reminders about things that have been issues, starting with some technical stuff.

A team's shorts can be any color, as long as the whole team is wearing the same color. They can be the same color as the other team's shorts. Tights, sliding pants or whatever you call them can be worn under the shorts as "visible undergarments." They do not have to match the color of the shorts. They only have to be a single, solid color and everyone on the team that has chosen to wear them must have the same color. It is up to the coach how to adjust if their players have multiple colors. It is not our job to tell players or coaches which color to wear if there is a color conflict between team members. Visible undergarments worn by one team do not have to contrast with visible undergarments worn by the other team. So, for example, players from both teams could wear black tights under their shorts. If this is still confusing, please review rule 4.1.1.d.

As we know, teams must provide a roster to the referee before the game. Rule 3.1.3. The roster must show the first and last name of all players, substitutes, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and anyone else who will be in the team area during the game. The list of players and substitutes must also show the shirt number of each player. The team can have anyone in the team area that they want to have there. The principal, the athletic director, the coach's baby daughter, anybody! Referees have no say about who is in the team area (unless someone has been red carded.) But everybody has to be listed on the roster. It doesn't hurt to check how many bodies you see out there before the game with the team against how many are on the roster. OSAA is working on a standard team roster, which will have space for all of the bench personnel. For now, though, any roster format is acceptable, provided it is legible and complete. Yes, in high school, names can be added to the roster after the game starts.

I have had some coaches tell me that referees in JV and JV2 games are not stopping their watch when the rules require. This is cheating the players out of playing time that, by rule, they are entitled to receive! Every game and every player should be respected, no matter what the level of the game. The clock stops in high school soccer on goals, cards, injuries, penalty kicks and any other time that you need to stop the clock to bring justice to the game. Yes, for example, sometimes the ball goes far, far away and there is no closer ball to use instead. Use your best judgment.

Occasionally, a visiting team will be late to arrive at the game site. Usually, this is a sub-varsity game situation but it can also happen in a varsity game. Similarly, a game can be delayed by another sport on the field. I'm looking at you, JV football! And, very occasionally, we have a lightning delay either before the game or a stoppage during the game. There is no OSAA rule about minimum warm up time on the field. If a team arrives "late," or the game is otherwise delayed, please work with both coaches to agree on a reasonable start time. They will have to consider transportation issues, facilities issues, etc. You may also need to consider whether one or more of the officials have a game later that day where your assignment may be affected by a delay in your first game. Please work with your commissioner in such a case.

We had a JV2 boys game last week in which a parent/spectator didn't like a referee decision. Imagine that! Unfortunately, he lost control of himself and began to berate the referee's decision and the referee himself, loudly and without stopping. When the referee approached the coaches to identify the parent, neither knew him. In fairness, it was the first week of their school year, so it wasn't surprising that the coach didn't know who the parent was. The coaches from both teams and the referee approached the parent and told him that he had to leave the area, which he did. This was an exemplary act of sportsmanship by these coaches. It was also an excellent decision by the referee to not just ignore this behavior but to chose to deal with unsportsmanlike behavior by a spectator.

Unfortunately, the parent was still lurking in the parking lot at the end of the game he and approached the referee after the game, demanding his name and telling him that he was incompetent and he (the parent) would be "reporting" him. Understand that even if you might have made a colossal mistake that changed the outcome of the game, the schools, the coaches, OSAA and your commissioner don't care about the opinions of a spectator.) The referee was able to de-escalate the situation a bit and leave before the parent initiated any physical contact. This is a scary situation, folks. The home school is required, by OSAA policy, to offer an escort to their cars for game officials, if requested. In a sub-varsity game, the home coach is supposed to provide that escort. If you feel that a situation before, during or after a game is dangerous to you, players or coaches, please do not hesitate to call the police. These situations are very rare in Oregon high school sports. If, and when, they happen, we have to take care of business so that they don't end in assaults or worse. And you should know that OSAA and the schools have your back in these situations.

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