

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #4

2018

Things are starting to sort themselves out a bit, at least at the varsity level. However, many teams have only played a few games so far, perhaps due to air quality issues. There have been few if any league games so far, but they aren't far away.

We've had a very good start to the season. Without checking the statistics, the number of red cards seems to be down from last year. There have been some great, collegial interaction between coaches and referees so far. Of course, a few coaches have had to be reminded (with a caution) that they should improve their attitude. We can still be friendly and pleasant when we give that reminder. "Nothing personal. It's just business."

We have had a few issues with clock operators. Unfortunately, many clock operators are more interested in watching the game than in watching the referee for signals to stop the clock. That probably isn't going to change. I can't remember that I've ever had a problem with a clock operator that I met before the game. Your mileage may vary, but it is a good idea to talk with them and be sure they know the times that you will be stopping the clock and what the signal is. During the game, you may need to sneak a peek at the clock, particularly when it should be stopped. There's nothing wrong with verbalizing "Stop the clock, please!!!"

And, quick review, in high school, the stadium clock and your watch, whether official or backup, stops for goals, cards of either color, injuries (as signaled by the referee, not the clock operator's opinion) and penalty kicks. Referees also have the option of stopping the clock at any other time that they need to do so in order to bring justice to the game. That covers a lot of situations and it is at your discretion. Typical reasons might include the only available game ball has gone thirty or forty yards away and the goalkeeper has to chase it, or a team that's leading is doing some polite time wasting late in the contest, but you don't want to give a caution for it. Another would be having to communicate with the game manager on a varsity game (or home coach on any other game) about spectator behavior. I'm sure you can think of any number of other things that have happened. Stopping the clock in these situations is just a subtle reminder that you are in charge here and not the players.

The quality of game reports this year is a significant improvement over last year. When reporting a caution or disqualification (send off), you start with identifying the player. Then report what they did, followed by what you did and, finally, what followed your action. For many cards, it's a simple formula. For example:

In the 18th minute #6, Molly Jones of Washington High School, whacked her opponent's Achilles from behind, knocking her down, as the opponent was about to receive the ball. I stopped play and cautioned Ms. Jones for unsporting behavior. She left the field and was replaced as I reported the caution to both coaches. Play was restarted with a direct free kick for the opponents. There were no further problems with Ms. Jones.

Be clear in reporting what happened, not just that you gave a card. If the player or coach says or does anything inappropriate after you stopped play, be sure to add those details to your report. Please remember that your report may be read by OSAA, the principal, the athletic director and/or the coach, from either school, depending on the circumstances.

Be careful out there! Please include it in your game report if there is no game administrator for a varsity game. This is an OSAA requirement and they need the information if that isn't happening.

Patrick Duffy

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