

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #1

2019

The new season is about to kick off! Practices start today. The first games are Thursday, August 29. I hope that you are getting ready. Could you go out and do a game this afternoon? There are going to be a lot of games this season. We have to be ready. That means doing some fitness training. Even if you haven't quite started yet, some training is better than none. The players are still all U-19 and we are one year older than we were last year. It is also time to put together your referee bag, with all of the things you know you will need for this season.

I have been reviewing the NFHS test questions that have been the most difficult for the test takers. Some of the questions are not well worded and some wrong answers can be attributed to the question, rather than the test takers' lack of knowledge. But some questions raise issues that we need to consider:

When we believe that a player MAY have possibly suffered a concussion, we send them to the bench, as we would for any injury. We also inform the coach that there may have been a concussion. We are not doctors (with one or two exceptions) but we do have a trained layperson's knowledge about concussions. "When in doubt, sit them out." Sending them to the bench and informing the coach is the end of our role for that player. Getting them appropriate medical examination and treatment is up to the school. In the very unlikely event that such a player returns to today's game, they do not have to show us medical documentation, etc. Please do include all concussions and any time that the player is returned to the game by their coach in your game report.

None of us likes being the 'fashion police.' We are still responsible for handling uniform issues. Visible undergarments are permitted by NFHS rules. Long sleeve shirts under short sleeve uniforms and tights under shorts and socks are typical 'visible undergarments.' What is visible can be any color, even the other team's color, as long as it is one solid color and everyone on the team who is wearing that type of visible undergarment is wearing the same color. The color of the under shirt does not have to be the same as the color of the tights.

Sometimes, a cautioned player decides to tell you off as they are leaving the field (and, remember, in high school they have to leave if they get a caution.) It is, of course, up to your trained professional judgment about whether that player should receive a second card, yellow or red. But if you do give a red card to the player, what about the sub that is waiting to replace them? If you have not signaled the sub to enter, the sub does not enter and their team plays short for the rest of the game. If you have waved the sub on, the team does not play short. And, yes, you do need to go give the coaches the official reason for any cards you give.

All of the above suggests that we do need to review the NFHS rule book before that first game. When does the clock stop in high school soccer? When can teams sub? Please, please, please remember that the changes made this year to the IFAB/FIFA/USSF Laws of the Game were not made for high school, at least not this year. You should be prepared to tell coaches that, too.

Good luck with your season. Feel free to contact me with any questions or issues you have.

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