

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2014

The new season has now started! Players are eager to actually be playing games instead of just doing training. Coaches are eager to see what their players can do against real opponents. With the start of school, friends of the players will be coming out to support their friends on the team and their school from the stands. We should help get the season off to a good start by dealing with the issues that are typical for this time of the year.

A perennial favorite is uniforms and equipment. Many coaches and athletic directors are reporting that they have not yet received their uniform order from their supplier. That's pretty much what happens every year to some schools. When entire teams do not have the correct uniform, please get the explanation from the coach and put that information in your game report. We still play the game. Some referees are confused by the all white requirement for the home team. If you are confused, please read rule 4.1.1.a. Note that only the home team's jersey (shirt) and socks are required to be solid white. The shorts do NOT have to be white, much less all white. In fact, I have already done a game where both teams were wearing the same color of blue shorts.

We do need to get a handle on two related issues: tape on socks and shin guard positioning. Shin guards are required by high school rule (4.1.1) to be worn no more than two inches above the ankle. This is not just something that the adults are imposing just because we can. It is for the safety of the players. The opponent's tackles don't (usually) come in at the mid shin level. Their cleats are coming in down low, in the, perhaps vain, hope of winning the ball, so that's where the players need protection. Tape on the socks should not be holding the shin guards up too high. Likewise, the color of tape is supposed to match the color of the socks the players are wearing, i.e. white for the home team and whatever dark color the visiting team is wearing on the socks. (4.1.1.b)

There have been some issues already with substitutions. Let's start by remembering that the sub rules for high school are different than those for USSF/FIFA club games. If you are in any doubt about the high school rules, please review rule 3.3, which tell us when subs are permitted to enter. We cannot allow subs to enter at other times, no matter how long they have been standing there waiting. Please note that, unless there is a card and/or an injury, there is no substitution in a high school game on a stoppage for a foul or offside.

During the game, you should make a quick check of the area between the benches at any stoppage when subs might be able to enter (e.g. a throw-in or goal kick). If there are subs waiting and it is a legal opportunity for them to enter, you can wave them on. They do not have to wait for the exiting player (rule 3.3.6). You do not have to wave them on immediately if you think there could be an issue with an exiting player doing or saying something they shouldn't while they are going off. E.g. perhaps the game has been a bit chippy or players have been exchanging unpleasantries with their opponents

already. In that case, wait for the exiting player to be off or close to off the field and then beckon on the entering player.

Do not restart the game until the exiting player is off the field and the entering player is at least on the field! It is generally considered courteous to allow the entering player to get into the vicinity of where they are supposed to be for the restart, before you blow the whistle. It would be wise to also do a quick eyeball check with your fellow officials before the restart. Sometimes they can help you avoid embarrassing yourself with a too quick restart.

Last thing: If you give a yellow or red card before, during or after the game, you MUST report all of the details in your game report. If you are missing some information, report the information you have and include why you don't have the rest of it. You must report all cards, even if you later decided that you should not have given that card or that it should have been a different color. If you did change your mind, put that in your game report. Conversely, you may not report giving a card that you later decided that you "should" have given, but didn't actually show at the time.

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