

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #3

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While most games are still non-league at this point, many varsity teams see these games as very important to their OSAA Ranking, which will affect them come playoffs time. We need to treat these games with the same degree of importance that the teams and schools give them.

There have been a number of equipment related issues raised in the last week. Just a quick review:

- At least one player has a molded face guard. This is permitted under rule 4.2.8. However, you will need to see a medical release from an appropriate healthcare professional before the game.
- At least one player is wearing a mouth guard. This is permitted under rule 4.2.7, if the mouth guard is not completely white or completely clear. (This is so that the mouth guard is immediately obvious if the player had to have their airway opened in an emergency.) That means that a mouth guard of any other color is permitted, including black.
- At least one female player is wearing a head covering for religious reasons. We have requested a picture from the school, in order to determine whether this is permitted by rule. Until then, the head referee will have to make a ruling on the safety of this apparel. While religious medals are permitted, if taped and worn under the uniform, there is no religious exemption for other apparel items. Rule 4.2.2 says that "Hair control devices may be worn if made of soft material and not for adornment." 4.2.1.h, however, prohibits "helmets, hats, caps or visors." An OSAA adoption allows "soft and yielding caps" to be worn in bad weather. Note that anything with a knot is, by rule, considered to be potentially dangerous. (Play Ruling 4.2.2 Situation A.) Please include your decision, either way, in your game report, if this becomes an issue.

Please include any other unusual equipment issues in your game report. This will allow us to address the problem in a uniform way, to stymie the cries of "The referee last game let us do it...."

Referees who also do games under USSF sometimes struggle with the variations in the substitution NFHS rules. Please remember that there are no substitutions allowed on routine fouls (i.e. no card, no injury), no matter how long the players have been waiting to enter. They may be more used to USSF rules also! You can respond to their requests to enter at times that are not permitted with something like, "Not on a foul in high school." Conversely, some referees have been forgetting that, in high school games, players who are cautioned must leave the game and the team can sub for them. Any other subs who have already "checked in" (by coming to the halfway line, between the benches) can

also enter at that time. The referee should be coming to the area between the benches to report the reason for the card(s) to the coaches.

Your game reports may be seen by people other than your assignor, including the athletic directors and coaches. When players or coaches commit misconduct by arguing your decisions, the caution is for “dissent.” It is not spelled “decent” or “descent.” When you misspell a word that is in the rule book, your game report loses credibility.

NFHS rules make a distinction between “illegally equipped players” and “improperly equipped players.” See rules 18.1.1.r and s. An illegally equipped player is not wearing equipment that is required (e.g. shin guards) or is wearing prohibited equipment (e.g. jewelry.) An improperly equipped player is wearing legal equipment incorrectly (e.g. shin guards worn too high on the shin.) So what? Illegally equipped players earn their coach (or themselves, if it happens a second time in the game) a caution. Improper equipment does not. In both cases, the guilty player has to leave the field (at the next stoppage) and cannot be replaced at that time. However, an improperly equipped player can return at the next stoppage, with the referee’s permission, if they have corrected the problem. The illegally equipped player has to wait until the next legal sub opportunity for their team.

Finally, it is OSAA policy that officials, in all sports, are to leave the field/court immediately at the end of the match. Some referees have called this “ref and run.” This means that you do not, under any circumstances, stay to shake hands with the players or coaches after the game or to watch them shake hands with the other team. While they are doing that, you should be on your way to your car, yes, even if it was a wild game with a lot of bad feeling between the teams. Anything that happens at that point is up to the schools.

When the weather cools, you may want to adopt the practice of putting your car keys in the pocket of your jacket. At the end of the game, you can simply slip on the jacket, pick up your bag and head for the parking lot. Do not stop to change your shoes, debrief with your partners, etc. That only makes you a target for problems from players, coaches and spectators. At varsity games, the home school is supposed to provide a game manager who will escort you to your car, if you wish. If there is no one who has identified themselves as the game manager, you should put this in your game report.

Patrick Duffy

OSAA State Rules Interpreter