

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2015

The new season has started and teams are eager to get out there and play. We've already had our first red card, our first possible concussion, our first multiple card game and our first, and we hope last, game terminated by shots fired.

Since it is the start of the season, many of the other personnel at games are new. That would include athletic directors, game managers, announcers and clock operators. We should not assume that people from the home school in those roles have been through this before. We also need to be patient when things don't happen the way they should, especially early in the season. A 'pre-game' with the clock operator would be a very good idea.

Many clock operators end up just watching the game. You might suggest to them that it's okay to watch the game but, when they hear a whistle, they should look to the referee to see if they are signaling for a clock stoppage. You can also then remind them that the clock restarts when the ball is back in play, not when the referee whistles for the restart to be taken. Please take a quick look during the game to see that the clock actually stops and actually restarts when it should. Do not hesitate to hold up a restart and get the clock corrected, when necessary. It is rare that a referee has to do this a second time in the same game!

Sometimes, those stoppages are due to player injuries. High school rules emphasize player safety more than FIFA. Note that the words "serious injury" do not appear in the NFHS rules. Yes, if the injury is obvious and major (an "apparent" injury), we will stop play for it. Normally, if an injury does not appear serious and the player's safety is unlikely to be compromised by allowing play to continue, we wait for the next normal stoppage of play. If we don't know whether it's serious or not, we go ask the player how they're doing. When in doubt, though, stop play, stop the clock and call on the coach/trainer.

When the coach/trainer is summoned by the referee (even if they refuse to come on), the apparently injured player must leave the field, even if it is the goalkeeper. (This is a rule difference from FIFA.) Do not be in a hurry to restart the game. Make sure the injured player, coach and trainer are completely off the field and that the replacement is on. (Hint: count the players from the injured team.) If play was stopped for a normal stoppage (e.g. throw-in), we restart with the same restart we would have otherwise had. If we had to stop play, then we have to make a decision about whether one team had possession at the time or not. If one team had possession, they get an indirect free kick to restart the game, regardless of which team had the injury. If neither team had clear possession, the restart is a drop ball. Remember in high school, a drop ball is done between one player from each team. There are no 'one sided' drop balls allowed in high school. The indirect free kick restart should take care of most situations in which you would have otherwise done a one sided drop ball.

Sometimes, referees need to consult each other or just discuss what happened amongst themselves. This may happen at a stoppage of the game, between halves or after the game. During the game, referees will normally stand side by side, facing the field, so they can watch the players as they discuss. In any case, please be sure that your conversation can not be overheard by others, including players, coaches or spectators. Almost anything you say can and will be misinterpreted by the other people at the game. Even if what you say is 100% factual and accurate, others may put a spin on it that reflects badly on the officials or the opponents.

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