

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #3

2015

We are well into the season now. Many, but not all, schools have begun their league schedule. While the pre-season games will affect their seeding for the playoffs (assuming they make the playoffs), the league games mean a lot more. Old rivalries are renewed and who wins will determine who makes the post-season. We need to understand the attitudes and feelings of the players and the coaches, as we get into the heart of the season.

There have been a number of new and old issues raised. I'm not pointing the finger at anyone here, just giving some friendly reminders.

There has already been some fallout from referees who did not leave the field/stadium/area immediately after the final whistle or horn. Do not hang around to get the early reviews from the coaches or parents! Do not hang around to shag game balls! Do not hang around to shake hands with the players! Yes, some coaches feel that the referees are being "unfriendly" by leaving immediately. Sorry, but this is a directive from OSAA that applies to officials in all sports. I'm not asking that you run to the parking lot. But you should make a dignified and expeditious exit during the time that the coaches are talking to their teams and the spectators are folding up their chairs.

There is no limit on roster size before we reach the OSAA playoffs. Teams can have as many players on their roster as they want. Be sure, of course, that the coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, managers, etc. are all listed on the roster. It's a lot more professional to be able to list the coach's name in your game report (if you gave them a card) than have to call your commissioner and say, "I carded the home coach, but I don't know his name. He's kind of tall, a little balding and he was wearing a blue shirt."

Most schools ask for three officials for varsity games. As we know, that isn't always possible, given the number of referees available, particularly for afternoon games. If we only have two officials, we use the dual system. Although it happens very rarely, sometimes only one referee shows up for a varsity game. Please call your commissioner when it appears that you are the only one there for a varsity game. They may know something about where the other official(s) are, etc. At the very least, they will need to know what's happened before the home school athletic director calls them. You may NOT use "club linesmen" on a varsity or JV game, since they are not OSAA certified officials. On JV2 or freshmen games, you may, at your discretion, obtain the services of a spectator to indicate whether the ball has entirely crossed the goal line or touchline. Under no circumstances should they be used to indicate offside.

In sub-varsity games (JV, JV2, freshman, middle school), all NFHS rules still apply, except for some parts of Rule 4, as discussed below. That means that the clock stops and starts at the same times

that it would in a varsity contest. See rule 6.2.3.a. This is true whether a stadium clock is used or the referees are keeping the time on the field. Use of a continuously running clock deprives players of the playing time to which they are entitled.

As mentioned above, we do not expect that sub-varsity teams will comply with all aspects of the NFHS rules regarding colors of shirts and socks. Almost all sub-varsity teams are using hand me down uniforms worn by the varsity in previous seasons. Those uniforms may have been purchased before some of the NFHS rules about colors were even adopted. The expectation, then, is that field player shirts will be sufficiently different from the opponents that the players and the referees can tell who is who. They should also be somewhat similar in color, although sometimes a team will be mixing different generations of shirts. The goalkeepers must wear shirt colors that distinguish them from the opposing team's field players. The tape on the socks rule (4.1.1.b) theoretically still applies but remember that we are primarily concerned about giving the student-athletes the chance to play. Reasonable people are expected to do the reasonable thing, so put it in your game report and play the game.

When a player is wearing illegal equipment (e.g. an earring), their head coach receives the caution, if this is the first caution for illegal equipment to their team in the game. If a player from that team commits another equipment error, then the player receives the caution. In either case, however, the player must leave the field and can be replaced.

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