

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2016

The new season has begun! Some teams played in jamborees last week and other teams will play their first full games this week. There are a huge number of games being played this year, over 4,000 in the state, and the schools, coaches and players appreciate you being there. Yes, really!

Some of us have been around for a long time. Others are doing our first year of high school games but most of us are somewhere in between in terms of experience. It can be frustrating for first and second year referees to, perhaps, feel like they don't get the respect they deserve from coaches. We all started out at that level. Every one of us had, at some time, our first high school game ever. Hang in there. Everyone, regardless of their experience level, has had games that didn't go very well. No one is successful 100% of the time. Your referee colleagues know that and we will support you through this season.

Meanwhile, what one or two things are you working on this year? Where are you specifically trying to improve? It should be specific, something you can ask yourself about after each game. Did I do it right? It may take a whole season before it is just automatic, so you should keep working at it as the year goes on. You might even share it, before the game, with your crew, so they can give you feedback.

Please be smart about your use of social media with regard to your role as a referee. Anything you post is out there, in cyberspace, permanently. Do not risk your reputation, personally or professionally. Comments about teams, coaches, players or schools are rarely going to reflect well on you. Even if they are positive, they may cause others to doubt your neutrality. There are referee chat sites where we can talk about situations that have arisen in games, etc. Do remember that those sites are rarely fenced off from viewing or even participation by non-referees. For example, I have seen parents coming onto referee sites, with an axe to grind about what happened in their kid's game. Public criticism of a fellow official is inappropriate. An assessor will not post their comments publicly either, even though making comments to the referee is their job.

We have already had some game reports with apparently incorrect reasons cited for cards that were given. Please double check that the reason and the description match up. The description should include enough detail that someone who was not there can understand what happened and why the card was given. Depending on the game and what happened, your game report may be shared by your commissioner with a school's athletic director or principal, who may, in turn, pass it on to others.

It's going to be warm for awhile at the start of the season, so stay hydrated!

Patrick Duffy

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