

# Oregon School Activities Association

## Soccer Bulletin #3

**2016**

The new season has begun and we've had some rough spots already. There are a number of topics we need to review.

An F-bomb directed to a referee, assistant referee, coach, player, school administrator or spectator (have I mentioned everyone?) is a disqualification (red card.) First time, every time. You cannot call this anything other than "insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture." 12.8.2.f. The schools do NOT want players or coaches using this kind of language. It is not acceptable and you should not feel bad for giving the red card it deserves.

Some referees have reported that the home school did not provide ball holders. Ball holders are not required in Oregon high school soccer. I know it is in the NFHS rule book but OSAA has chosen not to adopt that rule. Also, FIFA and NCAA rules prohibit advertising on corner flags. NFHS does not prohibit advertising there, which is, usually, the name of the manufacturer. That may be an oversight on NFHS's part, but you do not need to report advertising on corner flags, either.

Before the game, please check with the clock operator if there is a scoreboard clock in use, large or small. Doing this can save you major or minor problems later, problems you can't fix. Please verify 40 minute halves, 10 minute half time, is there a horn on the clock?, the clock operator/PA announcer will count down the last 10 seconds of each half on the PA system (if there is one) and remind them to watch for 'stop the clock' signals. What I will tell clock operators is "I know you will be watching the game and that's okay. But when you hear a whistle, look at the referee and see if he's crossing his wrists overhead. If so, stop the clock." You can use your own language, of course.

Sometimes, the clock operator is distracted, doesn't stop the clock when they should, etc. Do NOT just let it go! Verbally hold up the restart and use lots of whistle until you get the operator's attention. The last resort, if the whistle doesn't work, is going up to the press box, while everybody waits. Get the clock reset to the correct time, because you have the backup watch, right? If it happens a second time, order the clock shut down and keep the time on the field. And be sure to report this in your game report.

Speaking of game reports, the referee crew should double check the score amongst themselves at the end of the game. We have already had some embarrassing instances this year of crew members reporting different scores. One referee says 4-2 and their dual partner says it was 4-1. Frankly, this just gives administrators and coaches the opening to say "Those referees were so bad that they didn't even know what the score was!" Don't let this happen to you. Likewise, the Oregon Soccer Central website, which most of our commissioners use, asks the referee to rate the behavior of the teams. Some leagues use these numbers to select sportsmanship award winners at the end of the season, for example. Don't

just give everyone a 10! We have already had a game with six cautions and a red but the referee rated both team's behavior as a perfect 10.

Finally, I have been asked about how to handle a player wearing tape on their socks which does not match the color of the socks. 4.1.1.b. One of the NFHS points of emphasis this year is referees double checking that players appear to be legally and properly equipped before the game starts. That gives you the opportunity to deal with this and similar problems before the game. If the game starts and you find a player in the game with tape that does not match their socks, you still have to deal with it. At the next stoppage, send them to the bench to remove the tape. They are improperly equipped. That means no caution is given to the player or their coach. It does mean that their team cannot substitute for them. They may not re-enter until the next dead ball and you have waved them on, after seeing that the wrong colored tape has been removed. I know that no referee enjoys dealing with this sort of thing, but the players and the coaches are responsible to see that their appearance meets the expectations of NFHS, OSAA and their school. We're just double checking them.

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