

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #4

2016

We are now halfway through the regular season. I know that a lot of you are doing a lot of games, in high school, college, youth and adult leagues. Be sure that you get enough rest, both physical and mental, so you can do your best job when you are on the field.

There are a number of fields where goals are not secured. Unfortunately, it is not optional. 1.4.1 “If portable goals are used, they shall be adequately anchored, secured or counterweighted to the ground.” Play Ruling 1.4.1 Situation B. “While inspecting the field prior to the game, the head referee detects that the portable goals in use are not securely anchored to the ground. RULING: The game will not start until the goals are properly secured.” This is a safety issue. It’s not in the same category with tape on socks and shirts with no numbers on the front. We cannot simply ignore unsecured goals.

In most cases, it only takes a few sandbags or the equivalent on the back bar to make them reasonably safe. I’ve seen a number of fields where they use very large tires. At least the tires don’t leak sand! There is one style of goals which contain the counter-weighting in the bar itself. They typically have very long legs going back from the posts and a thick crossbar. If the goals can be tipped over, they are not secured.

We realize that not all teams are playing on fields that are owned by the school. But portable goals still must be secured. IF THE GOALS ARE NOT SECURED, YOU MUST ASK THE HOST SCHOOL TO GET THEM SECURED. DO NOT START THE GAME UNTIL THEY ARE SECURE, EVEN IF “THE REFEREE LAST WEEK DIDN’T SAY ANYTHING.” It is the host school’s responsibility to provide a safe field. If the game can’t be played, it isn’t your fault, it is the school’s.

At the same time, there have been far too many reports of referees demanding in a rather arrogant way that the goals have to be secured or else. You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar. Ask politely, smile and be collegial. “Coach, are the sandbags around here some place? They aren’t on the goals yet” goes a lot farther than “Coach, we will not start the game until you get the goals secured. Your failure to have them secured will be in my game report.” We are the adults out there and we need to treat each other as adults, until their behavior proves otherwise.

Your game reports must include all yellow and red cards, even if you later decided that you shouldn’t have given a card or you gave the wrong color card. If that happens, please state that you have now changed your mind and why. Your commissioner and the school will take it from there. It is a serious violation of referee ethics to not report a card that you showed on the field. A few referees are describing the reason for the card with just initials, such as UB, or a location on the field, and nothing else. That does not help the school or the commissioner. If you give someone a red card for receiving a second caution, you must report both cautions and the disqualification separately. Three lines on the

report. Please also be careful when choosing the reason for the misconduct. Quite a few people in Oregon Soccer Central have been clicking on 'unsporting behavior – coach' when it was a player who was cautioned.

One other thing about game reports. Your game report may end up being sent to a school, a coach, OSAA or someone else. Your report should be simply factual, no opinions about what dirty players this team always is, etc. "I almost gave him a caution" is no help. And please communicate directly with your commissioner about problems with another official on your crew. That does not belong in your game report itself. You can't give a card to another official!

When you have a player down, it can be hard to determine instantly whether they just need a moment or they are really hurt. Most of us also do not want to take an immediate scoring opportunity away from either team during this situation, either. However, certainly any head injury, an injury where the player is apparently not moving or they are screaming in pain is cause to stop play immediately. There are very few situations in which getting help to a player ten seconds earlier will make a difference. Head injuries are clearly one where it does make a difference. If you need to go ask the player how they are doing, i.e. you don't know yet whether they are truly injured or not, you do not need to stop the clock. You can and I would recommend that you do so if you have to go a ways to talk to them, however. If you don't yet know whether they are injured or not and you choose to stop the clock, the player does not have to leave the field. When you believe that you will need to call on the coach or trainer, stop the clock and move away. In this case, the player will have to leave the field. You need to keep the rest of the players under surveillance and probably discuss what each of you saw with your AR or dual partner. Please relax and not get anxious about getting the game restarted. Attending to the injured player is the first priority.

When time expires, the half is over. Unlike, say, basketball, if the ball enters the goal after time has expired, the goal does not count.

There have been an unusual number of red cards so far this year. I have read only one game report where a red card was given and the description of what happened did not justify the red. So it appears that the higher number of red cards is justified by what is happening on the field. When players begin arguing your calls, and the coach chimes in, either before or after the players, it's time to step back. The game is going south on you. Your clue is continuous low level, emotional or calculated complaining. Caution or disqualify the coach, depending on their behavior and the rule book, when they have become part of the problem. This will normally reduce the problem. I read far too many game reports where the referee reports something along the lines of "the [name of team] coach was arguing my calls the whole game." Ask, caution, disqualify. The schools do not want coaches making a scene.

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