

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2017

The new season has begun! Some teams played in jamborees last week and other teams played their first full games this week. There are a huge number of games being played this year, over 4,500 in the state, and the schools, coaches and players appreciate you being there. Yes, really!

Newer referees may feel a little shaky at the start of the season. That's natural. We've all had that early career part of our referee resume. Your more experienced colleagues are still happy to have you out there with us. We can do this and that means supporting each other, even when we see someone make a mistake. Right, wrong or horribly wrong, you are still the only referee that today's game is going to get. And, in case you forgot to notice, the players make more mistakes than the referees. If there are no referees, do you know what they call it? Just practice.

We have already had a number of unusual events on the field. A number of games in the Willamette Valley were cancelled on Tuesday, the 29th, due to air quality problems. It is better that we're not out there, either, running around and breathing hard under smoky conditions.

There was a fight in the first game of the season for the two schools, including a player disqualified (red card) for coming off the bench to join the fight. That's definitely a rarity in a non-league game. Certainly, red cards before Labor Day are very unusual. Hot, humid weather can shorten tempers very easily. We should especially keep our ears and eyes open for players who are getting frustrated and upset in weather conditions like this. Talk to them before they do something foolish, even if you have to go out of your normal diagonal to do it.

A player got one of the rarest cautions, illegally exiting the field, for just walking off the field and going to sit on the bench, with no permission from the referee. Naturally, we have to double check ourselves when we think we saw something strange happen. "Did I really see what I think I just saw?" But, if we realize that it really did happen, we have to issue the card and take care of business.

We have already had game reports with some problems. It can be hard to remember to do right after the game, but check that your score matches the rest of your crew. Descriptions of cards, both red and yellow, should contain enough information that someone who was not at the game (like, say, your assignor or an athletic director) will understand what happened. "I sent him off for a challenge on an opponent" is not enough. Please remember that there are certain code words in the rules. "Reckless" = caution for unsporting behavior. "Used disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball" = disqualification for serious foul play. Please don't confuse them. It is very hard to defend a red card that you say you gave for a "reckless challenge." Was it reckless or was it disproportionate force?

It's going to be warm for awhile at the start of this season, so stay hydrated! Just be thankful that we're not in Houston.

Patrick Duffy

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