

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #3

2017

The new season has begun and we've had some rough spots already. Fortunately, most schools made the smart choice to cancel/postpone games because of the air quality problems this last week. Some games that were started were terminated later as conditions deteriorated. Just remember, if this sort of thing happens again, the home school athletic director (or their representative) makes the call about whether to start the game. The referee is responsible for making the decision to terminate if conditions get worse. You should not worry about trying to get to half time. You also have the authority to shorten halves "in any emergency."

There are a number of topics we need to review. Where to start?

Many of us have only limited experience using the dual system. Even when there are only two officials, which happens quite often in high school, the officials are still a team. If you feel that the other referee has made a MAJOR mistake, you can discuss it with them. (Don't forget to stop the clock!) However, any such discussion must be done out of earshot of anyone else and be brief. No one came to the game to watch the referees discuss what happened. Get on with it. Neither referee has the right to overrule the other referee, except in the extremely limited situations described in 5.3.2. How limited? In 27 years, I have never overruled or been overruled by my dual partner.

There are some offenses for which an indirect free kick is the penalty. (13.2.2) An indirect free kick offense can never, ever result in a penalty kick! Likewise, if you stop the game for misconduct which is not a foul (e.g. dissent), the restart is never a penalty kick. Please be sure you know what are the indirect free kick offenses. Playing in a dangerous manner is just one of them.

The referee crew should double check the score amongst themselves at the end of the game. I know this is hard to remember to do. Try to build it as a post-game habit. We have already had some embarrassing instances 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. Similarly, some associations ask the officials to rate the behavior of the teams, from one to 10. You only make yourself look foolish if you rate a team a 10 when you gave them three yellows and a red.

There have been a number of games so far with inattentive stadium clock operators. The referee crew must take ownership of clock management. One member of the crew should be made responsible for checking that the clock stops and starts when it should. It does not have to be the center. On a dual or diagonal, I would suggest that it should be the official physically closest to the clock operator. If the clock operator fails to start or stop when necessary by more than a trifling amount, you MUST get the clock corrected! 5.3.2.i Do not just let it go!!! Failure to get the clock fixed will lead to

problems with the disadvantaged team and loss of respect for the officials. If they repeatedly do not get the clock stopped or started when necessary, you have the authority to shut off the clock and keep the time on the field. This should not be the first resort, but not the tenth resort either.

There have been quite a few games so far with continuing encroachment by defenders on free kicks. For too long, referees have allowed this to happen, without giving cautions for delaying the restart. This is a deliberate tactic, used to give the defense time to organize. Especially when a defender “wanders” in front of the ball, or move towards the ball from ten yards or more away, it should be clear that this not just random movement. Don’t fool yourself by thinking that “Oh, they just don’t know what 10 yards is.” Particularly when the game is played on a field that is also used for gridiron football, there is no excuse for defenders standing closer than 10 yards to the ball. Cautions the first player who does it and the behavior will stop.

We have also seen an unusually large number of players cautioned for grabbing the arm of opponents who were moving past them. Good work! This sort of behavior clearly is unsporting. If you don’t caution it, elbows and/or fists in retaliation are highly likely to ensue. Prevent problems, send a message.

I had hoped that I would not have to say this again, but apparently I do. If the goals are not secured, the game may not be played. Too bad, but this is a major safety issue. Excuses don’t feed the bulldog. Unsecured goals = no game, whether it’s varsity, JV, JV2 or middle school, on the school’s property or in a park. There can be no compromise on this. Work with the game administrator or home team head coach, as appropriate, to get the goals secured.

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