

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #5

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Most teams are now in league play. In the minds of many players and coaches, now the games “count for something.” The games are more likely to be rivalry games, so players and/or coaches may have stronger feelings that they ‘have to beat them.’

Please check www.osaa.org before your games and click on the tab for girls soccer or boys soccer, so you can see how the teams are doing so far this year. A game between a top ranked team and a much lower ranked team is going to be played differently than a #1 v #2 team. And any game that is 0-0 or 1-0 late in the game has the potential for things to get crazy. Trying to get that vital goal or stop, the players may step up their actions beyond their physical capabilities to play safely and fairly. The officials need to be the calmest people at the game in this situation. Take your time to get the decision right, working with the other officials, if necessary, no matter how much shouting you hear.

We sometimes use the phrase ‘ref and run.’ Of course, we do not mean that literally. But we want you to leave the field absolutely as soon as possible after the final whistle/horn. Unlike club games, we do not wait to watch the teams shake hands or accept their opinions of our performance, whether that’s players or coaches. Yes, you may know one or more coaches there but, if they’ve been around for a while, they know that, as a ref, you are supposed to leave quickly.

Place your bags as close as possible to where you will be exiting the field towards the parking lot. Usually, this is behind one of the goals, but that depends on the layout at that site. Between the benches is almost always a bad choice. All of the officials should put their bags near each other. This will also allow the crew to talk at halftime about what’s happened so far and what the crew can do better. Before you leave them to start the second half, have your bag ready to leave at the end of the game. As the weather cools, we will want to wear a jacket or other top as we are leaving. This will also reduce your visibility to spectators and others as you leave. I would recommend that you leave your car fob/keys and your phone in your jacket pockets. That allows you to just pick up the jacket, put it on and leave. If it’s raining, you will probably put your bag in a big garbage bag, so your jacket can be on top of the bag, inside the garbage bag. If you want to change your shoes, socks, etc., please do that in your car.

We work some games as duals. That is not a permitted system in USSF but it is used in high school game, for a number of reasons. There have been some issues with the mechanics in the dual system, apart from positioning. One official is R1. They are on the bench side of the field, normally in the area where AR1 would be in a diagonal system. R1 has the official time, but R2 has to back them up. R1 should take the lead in getting rosters from the coaches with

their agreement that the players will be legally and properly equipped before the game starts. R2 can help with checking the game balls and both officials should check the field before the game.

The diagonal system uses the concept of the lead referee and the trail referee. The lead referee is the one at the end currently being attacked, with the trail following play from behind. The trail should not call offside! (Yes, it has happened.) After the coin toss, conducted by R1, the officials should verbalize which of them will be the trail at kickoff. The trail official has the whistle for the kickoff. R1 will whistle for the end of each half, unless there is a stadium clock in use. Both officials should signal for any clock stoppages. The official with the better angle on the clock, frequently R2, has to check that the clock actually did stop for goals, cards, injuries, penalty kicks and any time we need to stop it to bring justice to the game. And then check after the stoppage that it started again.

When there are substitutions waiting to enter, R1 may have their back to the touchline and might not notice them. When R2 sees subs waiting and it is a legal sub opportunity for them, R2 can and should whistle up the substitution if R1 does notice it.

If a card has been issued, it is the duty of the referee who gave the card to inform both coaches of the reason. The other referee should watch the players to be sure there aren't problems with them during the stoppage. Notifying the coaches doesn't have to be a full paragraph explanation of what you saw. E.g. "White, number 8, unsporting conduct. Bring on your sub, coach." And then get away.

On all stoppages, if a whistle is required to restart, the referee whose side or end line has the restart should be the one to whistle it up. However, if it is a R2 restart and R1 has dealt with subs during the stoppage, R1 should signal R2 that the sub process is complete, so R2 can do the restart whistle. Normally, that signal should be #1 as shown on page 88 of this year's rule book. That also applies on kickoffs, with the lead official using that signal to indicate that everything at their end of the field is ready.

The key is visible and/or verbal communication between the two officials.

Be safe out there.

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