

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2023

Most of us have been out there by now for at least a game or two. There have been some upsets and some very one sided games. Reminder: if your game is ended early under the OSAA mercy rule, please put that fact in your game report. Otherwise, administrators may think that you failed to end the game when the goal differential reached eight or more at halftime or any time after that. Thanks.

Quite a few games are played, using the two referee system, commonly called the dual system. The NFHS rule book used to have a description of the mechanics of the dual system but they removed it this year. However, it is available at this site: [2023-24-nfhs-soccer-officiating-systems-final.pdf](#) If you do not have experience with the dual system, please review this material. There is a lot there to remember when you are out there on the field. If so, please read it more than once and then review it again after your next dual assignment. The keys are communication between the two officials, including eye contact, your voices and arm signals.

We have had some issues already this year with language. If discriminatory language is reported to you by a player or coach, you must stop the game immediately. You do not wait until the next stoppage. Tell both coaches what was reported and give them a minute or two to meet with their players, so they can remind them of expectations in this area. Discriminatory language is anything of a negative racial, ethnic, gender, gender preference or religious nature. The restart of the game will be a drop ball or other restart if the ball was already out of play.

PLEASE report full particulars in your game report. All of the officials at the game should report what they know about any such incident, even if they did not hear anything and all they have to report is that such a stoppage occurred. If it reoccurs, do not hesitate to repeat the suspension of play procedure.

If this language is coming from spectators, you must also stop the game and inform the game administrator. Ask them to deal with it and wait until they have had the chance to do so. IF they refuse to do so, please inform them that play will not be restarted until after they have dealt with it. Repeat this process for any repetition. If the game administrator did not introduce themselves to before a varsity game, the home team head coach is the game administrator. They are always the game administrator for sub-varsity games. And any such incident must be included in your game report, including whether the administrator dealt with it and whether there were further problems. If this sort of stoppage has to be done a third time, you should consider termination of the match. That's just advice to you, not a hard and fast rule.

If you are reporting problems with language, whether from players, coaches and/or spectators, please include the exact words you heard in your game report. This is very important. Do not, for example, report that the player said “fricking” if they actually said the real f word. Anyone reading your report is going to know that it wasn’t you who said those words. If you have given a red for a second caution, there should be THREE lines on your game report with that player’s name. Both cautions are reported, separately, and then the disqualification as second caution is the third.

The number of cards to coaches is up quite a bit this year. The percentage of red cards to coaches to the total number of red cards is also up. We are not out there looking for reasons to give a card and especially to a coach. But when they deserve it, you have to give it, without feeling guilty about doing so. Start by seeing the head coach before the game, because you have to ask them about player equipment anyway, and be friendly. You don’t have to be buddies but referees and coaches are all out there to give the players the chance to play the game. Sometimes, you can tell a dissenting coach something like “No more, coach” or “Coach, I’ve heard enough.”

Please consider whether you have a conflict of interest with any school playing in your game. I do not do games at my alma mater, even though it has been a lot of years since I was graduated. Please see the OSAA conflict of interest policy on the OSAA website. At a bare minimum, if you or a family member attends the school or works for the school, you cannot do that school’s games.

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