

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2024

At least some schools are already in session and games start this week! If you haven't read last week's SRI bulletin, please do so, so that you are prepared. It is not unusual for something unusual to come up during the first game or two of the season.

Of course, referees cannot be assigned to games until they have passed the rules test. But many referees also do USSF youth and/or adult games and/or college games. I would suggest reviewing high school rules the day before that first high school game of the season. Maybe you don't need to read the whole book, but the two areas where rule differences can be an issue are when does the clock stop in high school games and what are the substitution rules.

OSAA has distributed a memo from the chair of their sports medicine advisory committee. Coaches and referees should already be familiar with the concussion procedures. It is also important that the home school has a designated game manager present. For sub-varsity games, whether on campus or elsewhere, the game manager is the home team's head coach. For varsity games, the OSAA rule is that the coaching staff cannot be the game manager. It has to be another school staff member, typically the Athletic Director. The game manager is responsible for dealing with inappropriate spectator behavior, whether parent or student, and offering to escort the officials to their cars after the game. They are also responsible for hosting a short pre-event safety timeout with the coaches, officials and medical personnel, as well as responding to heat and air quality problems. Despite rule 1.7.1, if the game manager tells you that the heat index or air quality standards have been breached, stop the game. Be sure to identify who the game manager is before the game starts.

This is NOT a rule, at least not this year. However, we are asking that referees talk to both coaches about using a 'one voice' practice during the game. That means that only one coach talks to the referee or the players during the game. Having two (or more!) coaches speaking loudly can create confusion for the players on the field and the officials. Referees talk to head coaches, head coaches talk to referees, assistant coaches and their players. Many high school players may struggle when multiple coaches are yelling at them and/or at the officials, the game atmosphere starts to ramp up and may lead to poor decision making by students. And that's when dissent, foul language, cards and 'incidents' start to happen.

Over 300 referees have now completed their rules tests. There are a few questions that are repeatedly receiving wrong answers. Just to review:

Once play has restarted, such as a throw-in or a free kick has been taken, the referee can not change their decision about which team will take the throw-in, who got a card and what color it was, etc.

Even if contact between the ball and the hand/arm was accidental, if the player then scores either from the ball going off their hand or arm or they immediately kick the ball into the goal, the goal does not count. Direct free kick for the defending team.

If a player blocks an opponent from going to the ball, while the ball is not within playing distance of either of them, that is impeding, which is an indirect free kick foul, with the kick taken from the spot of the impeding, not the ball.

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