

Oregon Schools Activities Association

Soccer SRI Bulletin #3

2020-2021

The season seems to be moving along fairly well so far. Yes, there have been some bumps in the road, particularly on boys' games, but, for the most part, things have been going well. Our job is to keep them going well. I have seen or heard about a number of games where the officials reminded, by word or action, the players and, sometimes, the coaches, that this sport is an extension of the classroom. With that comes certain expectations and duties about behavior.

For many years, the NFHS rules have required that head coverings of a religious nature during the game require pre-approval by OSAA, and the coach was required to show the referee a copy of the OSAA authorization before the game. That requirement has now been eliminated, effective immediately. If there is such a player in your game, the coach does not have to show you any authorization letter. You should also know that the covering still may not be dangerous to the player or opponents. Anything with a knot or a portion of the covering that wraps around neck poses a risk of injury and is not permitted. 4.2.10. a. has not been deleted, so any head covering for a medical or 'cosmetic' reason still must be approved in advance.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Governor's office has recently changed the number of people who can be present at outdoor sports events. The specific number is determined by the risk level in the county where the game is being held. This is just a reminder that referees have NO role in monitoring or reporting the number of people present. That is the job of the host school, even for games played away from their campus. The change does mean that there is now a greater chance that there will actually be spectators at games, although some schools may still choose to prohibit spectators.

I have not seen any reports that referees are not wearing masks, but, yes, we still must wear a mask while we are at the game site. This is not true for college games, but the OHA has different standards for college games. There have been very few reports of players having to be sent to the bench to 'adjust' their mask. Remember, the coach should be your ally on this. They certainly have more influence on their players than we do. Communicating that a player is ignoring your requests to adjust their mask is difficult under the dual system. I'm going to suggest waiting for a stoppage, signaling to stop the time and then going to the coach to inform them of the problem with their player.

I have seen a number of reports that 'the coaches argued calls throughout the whole game,' but there was no caution to any coach. What you permit you encourage. Sometimes, coaches have lost control of their emotions and that inevitably means that their players will also. Sometimes, coaches are cynically trying to get calls in their team's favor. In both cases, it

is inappropriate behavior, particularly for an adult in a role model position. And it is always a distraction from the game itself for the officials and the players. Give the caution for dissent! Don't let it continue!! The manipulative coach is now checkmated, to borrow a chess term, because they don't want to get red carded. The over emotional coach has to either calm themselves down or leave if they receive a second caution.

Maybe this is just being picky, but I see too many game reports where there were multiple cards but the referee still rated the team's behavior as a perfect 10. ??? I have even seen a team with a red card get rated as a 10 on behavior. That detracts from your credibility as a neutral official. Some leagues use your ratings to recognize sportsmanship, so it can matter what your ratings are.

This year, we have had what appears to be a lot more coaches cautioned for their players wearing jewelry. Lots of tape over earrings. Please be proactive. Check out the players before the game.

We have also seen a lot more problems this season than normal with stadium clock operators not paying attention to the game. You have the absolute right and duty to not restart the game until the clock is adjusted to the right time. Don't worry about a few seconds but do worry, for instance, about clocks continuing to run while you and the teams set up for a penalty kick. I have personally seen a minute and a half tick off in this situation. If you don't deal with it, you are stealing playing time from the players.

Patrick Duffy
Soccer State Rules Interpreter