



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 www.osaa.org



2023-24 OSAA ADOPTED SOCCER RULES INTERPRETATIONS

The 2023-24 NFHS Soccer Rules Book will be used in all OSAA sanctioned competitions with the following clarifications. The term “referee” used throughout refers to the center referee or head referee depending on the system of officiating.

1-1	If a field is, or appears to be, larger or smaller than the dimensions specified, the referee will bring that to the attention of the game-site administrator and/or the home team’s head coach and will include that information on the game report. The contest will still be played.
1-5-3	Both teams shall be on the same side of the field.
3-1	Teams cannot share players from the opposing school (e.g., a team that is playing shorthanded cannot temporarily borrow a player from the opposing school.)
3-1-2	If a team cannot field a full side of 11 players, the opposing team is not required to reduce their number of players. (Although doing so could be a sign of good sportsmanship, and the situation may even be discussed prior to the game, the referee cannot compel a team to play shorthanded just because the other team is playing short.)
3-1-3	Officials are not to interpret OSAA rules regarding participant eligibility, contest limitations, or ejection suspension periods. If a concern exists beyond the NFHS rules and these OSAA adopted interpretations, the game shall be played with any participant listed by either team and the officials shall include that information on the game report. (E.g., if a visiting coach complains that a home team player should not be allowed to play in the varsity game because they participated in both halves of the previous sub-varsity game, the referee is to allow the player in question to participate and include the details of the situation and coach’s complaint on the game report.)
3-3-2b(4)	A player who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body shall be removed from the game by either their coach or the referee. Any decision to return a player to the contest, after the player has been cleared by a Qualified Health Care Professional, is solely that of the school. Determination of who is a Qualified Health Care Professional shall be made by the school. The referee shall note any occurrence of a suspected concussion and whether the player returned to the game or not on the game report. See OSAA Executive Board Policies, “Concussion Management,” for additional information.
4-1-1c	If players choose to wear a soft, cloth face mask, then only those names, patches, emblems, logos, or insignias referencing the school are permitted on players’ masks; the player’s name is also allowed on their mask. There are no color restrictions for masks.
4-1-1f	Approval must be granted by the OSAA for any commemorative or memorial patch.
4-2-7	A tooth and mouth protector is not required.
4-3-1h	EXCEPTION 2 - Players may wear soft and yielding caps during inclement weather. Caps must be alike in color.
5-1-1	Only the diagonal or dual systems of officiating may be used. Leagues/districts may select one of these systems for regular season league contests. In the absence of an adoption by a league/district, the commissioner of officials will select the system to be used for a particular game for which they are responsible for assigning.
5-1-2	The jurisdiction of the officials begins when they enter the field and its immediate surroundings (e.g., they enter a stadium where the game is to be held). The officials’ jurisdiction ends when they leave the field and its immediate surroundings after the end of the game.
5-1-3a	The shirt for officials shall be the same as that approved for officials by the United States Soccer Federation. Officials must match in jersey color, but do not need to match in sleeve length.
5-1-3f	Officials may use electronic communication equipment (e.g., beeper flags, radio communication systems, electronic whistles, etc.).

5-2-2d	Although the NFHS rule calls for a single meeting between officials, captains, and head coaches, such a meeting is not required for OSAA-sanctioned contests. Officials must obtain a complete roster and inquire of each head coach whether their players are properly and legally equipped before the game as per 5-2-2d(4). This is done independently from meeting with the captains to discuss sportsmanship and conduct the coin toss as provided in 5-2-2d(2) & (3).
5-4-1a	Officials do not need to verify scores after the game (see OSAA adopted interpretation of 6-3). After the game, the officials should immediately leave the field and its immediate surroundings.
6-1	Ball holders are optional, but are highly recommended. If provided, there shall be at least two ball holders.
6-2	If a timer, clock operator, or visible timing device is not available, then time shall be kept by the referee who shall continue to use the approved timing signals and no visible clock is to be used. (E.g., the home team wants to use the stadium clock without an operator and stop the clock in under five minutes left in each half. This would not be allowed. Time would be kept by the referee and the stadium clock would not be used to display the game time at any point.)
6-3	The referee shall be the official scorekeeper.
7-1-1	The duration of the game shall be two equal halves of 40 minutes each (this includes varsity and sub-varsity matches). Leagues/districts may adopt policies to reduce the duration of sub-varsity halves, provided they are still equal.
7-1-3	In the event a game must be suspended in the first half by the referee because of conditions that make it impossible to continue play, the game shall be declared no contest and shall be completely replayed, unless the two teams mutually agree otherwise or any league/district rules apply. See OSAA Executive Board Policies, "Interrupted Contests" and/or "Adverse Weather Conditions / Area-Wide Emergency Procedures," for additional information.
7-1-5	If an eight (8) goal differential occurs at halftime or anytime thereafter, the match shall be terminated and considered a completed match. This applies to all OSAA-sanctioned contests, for all levels, and includes post-season matches. This procedure cannot be waived by mutual agreement of the coaches. See OSAA Executive Board Policy, "Score Differential Procedures," for additional information.
7-3-1	No tie-breaking procedures are allowed during pre-season or regular season matches (e.g., no overtime is allowed nor are kicks from the penalty mark used to break a tie). Matches that are tied at the end of regulation time will be considered a draw. NOTE: The OSAA State Championship tie-breaking procedures shall be used in all district playoffs, play-ins, OSAA playoffs, and state championship matches.
12-9-1d	Incidental use of vulgar or profane language is a caution (yellow card).
12-9-2b	A player, coach, or bench personnel who uses derogatory, vulgar, or offensive terms targeting or directed at race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or orientation that is heard by any official shall be disqualified (red card) per 12-9-2b. If such language is reported to an official, but not observed by anyone on the officiating crew, then the referee shall immediately stop the game, stop the clock, and inform both coaches of the reported language. The coaches should be allowed time to speak to their players and bench personnel to remind them of the OSAA's zero-tolerance stance on discriminatory behavior. Play should be restarted according to the stoppage or with a drop ball as per 9-2-1c.
12-9-2	PENALTY - A disqualified player or coach (red card) shall be ejected for the remainder of the day and required to sit out through the next playing date at that level. Disqualified players may remain in the team area and fall under the responsibility of the head coach. Disqualified coaches must leave the visible confines of the field and its immediate surroundings and remain out of sight and sound. If a disqualified coach was the only adult on the roster, then the referee shall allow the removed coach to name a replacement to be added to the roster before leaving. Officials are not responsible for verifying the credentials of the replacement adult as that is the school's responsibility. The referee shall include the replacement coach's name on the game report. See OSAA Executive Board Policies, "Ejection Policies – Ejected Player or Coach," for additional information.