

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #2

2019

The new season has kicked off but this week starts the more intense portion of the schedule. We had over 5,300 high school games in the state last year. We're just getting started!

With the start of the season, we are more likely now to see players not wearing things like shin guards or wearing things like earrings. Please be attentive to this early in the season, so we won't have to worry (so much) about it later on. It would be better if you weren't "the referee last week" who let them wear the earrings, nose ring, watch, friendship bracelet, etc. And taping over them is NOT okay. If they are illegally equipped, the head coach gets the first caution to that team. Anything after that is on the player. Even if the coach is getting the caution, though, the illegally equipped player still has to leave the field at that point. Of course, they can be replaced by a substitute but whether they are or not, they cannot return until the next legal sub opportunity for their team.

Especially at the start of the season, we may see things near the field that are potentially dangerous. Hard objects that may be a hazard when players chase a ball for a throw-in, etc. The NFHS soccer field diagram (page 9 of the 2019-2020 rulebook) shows at least ten feet of free space outside all touchlines and goal lines. This distance is not required by rule, but it is an excellent guideline. If you feel there is something hard too close to the field, do not just let it go or merely point it out to the game administrator "for next time." You will feel awful if someone is hurt in today's game because you didn't insist that the problem be resolved before the game starts. We know there is a lot of social pressure to just play the game anyway but you have a duty (rule 5.2.2.a) to see that the facility is safe before the game starts. We have had a soccer referee in Oregon sued for failing to take care of such a situation.

Particularly with less skilled defenders, there is a tendency for them to do little pushes, short holds, etc. to slow down, at least a little, an opponent who is getting past them. You may or may not decide to apply advantage in these situations, because, frequently, the attacker is off towards goal with the ball anyway. But they have been slowed down, potentially allowing other defenders to block the path to goal. If you apply advantage, you should make a point to remind the defender to knock it off. "Play on, advantage. Six, watch the hands." If you find yourself applying advantage again, you may want to stop play for the foul, in order to send a message to the defenders that this behavior is not appropriate. Of course, it would be better if you had that opportunity when the attacker was 40 yards from goal than when they are 20 yards out.

We can get warm weather in Oregon even into October. OSAA has procedures in place to assist schools in dealing with temperatures and humidity during outdoor sports. The OSAA website contains a lot of material about the heat index. <http://www.osaa.org/heat-index> The home school is responsible

for monitoring the heat index for today. You do not have to. But, if either school suggests that water breaks would be appropriate during today's game, we will do water breaks. Please take a water break of less than two minutes around the twentieth minute of each half, plus or minus two minutes on the clock. This should be discussed by the referee team with both coaches before the game and loudly announced to the players when you are declaring the breaks. Take the break at a reasonably neutral opportunity in that time frame, such as after a goal, at a goal kick, an injury stoppage, a stoppage for a card or a throw-in by a team from their defending half of the field. The first such opportunity should probably be used, since you never know when you will get another one. Note that water breaks should not be extended for additional coaching. And, of course, you are going to stop the clock for the water break. If it is so hot that a second water break in each half could be required, you should discuss with the game administrator whether the game should be played. Note that artificial turf fields are 35 to 55 degrees hotter than grass fields.

Any player or bench personnel language that suggests you are favoring one team is sufficient reason for you to give an immediate disqualification (red card.) There is absolutely no room in high school sports for that kind of language. It is clearly offensive, insulting and/or abusive language. Do not even hesitate, first time every time. OSAA and NFHS want language like that stopped immediately.

Patrick Duffy

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