

# Oregon School Activities Association

## Soccer Bulletin #4

2019

Unfortunately, it appears that this is going to be a wet fall. I don't know anyone who likes to referee or play in the rain. Turf fields make the experience a bit more tolerable, but we're still soaked by the end of the game. It is time for us to add the wet weather stuff to our equipment.

A few suggestions and they are only suggestions. First, it is rather discouraging to get home after a game or two in the rain and find that everything in your bag is damp or just plain wet. A plastic garbage bag encasing your referee bag can help keep things drier than they otherwise would be. Since you will probably be wearing a jacket when you arrive at the game, you can put the jacket on top of your bag, inside the garbage bag. After the game, pull out the jacket and put it on. If you put your car keys in a pocket of your jacket, you are now ready to head directly to the parking lot.

Second, when it is raining before the game, sometimes we, mentally, want to complain about the rain and hope that one team won't show up so we can just go home. That's very unlikely to actually happen, though. We still have to do all of the standard pre-game activities. All of them and everything takes longer when we are getting wet. Get the rosters, check the game balls, check the goals, etc. Get the rosters in a dry place early. It is no fun to try to read a soaking wet roster that has the information you need about a player you carded. So get going a little earlier than normal.

Third, if you have (at least) two pair of referee shoes, you might consider dedicating one pair for use on grass fields only. You could also alternate which shoes you wear because you probably know it is not fun to put on shoes that haven't quite dried out yet from yesterday. Try to wipe off your shoes at the field, to the extent possible. And if you've been on a turf field that day, knock off the little black pebbly things before you get in your car and again before you walk in the house. Your significant other won't thank you for doing that, but you will get less grief if you don't drop all that black pebbly stuff on the floor when you come in.

We have had some random issues on games in the last week. If these happened in your game, well, at least I'm not mentioning your name. In my experience, however, these things frequently come up more than once in the season. For example, a referee had an issue with a goal kick that did not leave the penalty area. Remember that, only in high school, goal kicks still have to leave the penalty area before they can be played by either team. The IFAB change for youth and adult play this year has not been adopted for high school games. If the ball stops before it leaves the penalty area, the kick has not been taken "properly," and so it is retaken.

A referee crew got some complaint from the home school Athletic Director after the coach didn't want to worry about introductions, national anthem, etc. The AD was upset that this ceremony did not take place. Yes, the referees were caught in the middle here, literally and figuratively. Perhaps checking with the announcer/clock operator before the game would have prevented this communication problem.

And it won't hurt to have an opportunity to remind the clock operator about the winning team subbing in the last five minutes of the game and stopping the clock. We stop the clock when the winning team subs in the last five minutes, even if the other team is also subbing and even if the score is a blowout. If it is truly a blow out, the winning coach should have had the subs in long before the last five minutes of the game anyway. This rule applies in all high school games, even JV and JV2/freshmen.

The home school's game manager has to actually be at the game! Duh. If they are somewhere else and want you to call them if you have a problem, your game report should note that. Most game managers have taken care of bad behavior by spectators and a number of referees have noted that in their game report. If they don't want to do that, you should also include that in your game report. Having a game manager present and the game manager dealing with spectator misbehavior are points of emphasis this year from OSAA.

Overall, we had better behavior on the field this week. When you are giving a card, remember that you want not only the player to know that their behavior is not acceptable, but also everybody else out there. Make it as much of a ceremony as you need to in order to make your point. If your association uses Oregon Soccer Central for game reports, please think for a second before giving the sportsmanship points to each team. You only look foolish if you rate a team's behavior as a '10' when they received multiple cards. Yes, I've seen a 10 to a team with a red card. Five is supposed to be "average." Some leagues do use these ratings to give a sportsmanship award at the end of the season, so it is not a meaningless exercise.

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