

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #3

2024

Most teams, but not all, are still playing non-league games at the varsity and JV level, and JV2 has started their schedules. As always, there have been some issues early on.

A few referees have submitted misconduct reports without the names of the player or coach. You are required to receive a roster from both teams before the game. The roster MUST have the full name and number of all players, as well as the name of the coaches and any other people in the bench area. If you are on a dual system game, and you give a card, take a picture of the rosters for your game report, if your partner is keeping the rosters. If this does not happen, the OSAA website normally has a roster, with numbers, and the names of the coaches, for all teams. You can go to the OSAA website and find the information you need.

OSAA has had a 'mercy rule' in place for a number of years now. If the goal differential is eight or more at halftime or any point after that, the game is over. That means that we play the entire first 40 minute half, regardless of the score. Please note the time that the game ended in your game report. (Game clock time, not time of day.)

The weather has been very warm this week and it may still be warm next week, depending on your part of the state. Water breaks may be appropriate, so please discuss this with the coaches before the game. If you are taking water breaks, they should occur as soon as feasible after there is less than 20 minutes left in the half. Stoppages for water breaks can occur before kickoffs after a goal has been scored, goal kicks or when there is a throw-in in the throwing team's defensive third or middle third of the field. Substitutions can occur during water breaks.

There may be occasions during the season when heat, smoke, flooding, lighting or other environmental issues cause problems. Rule 1.7.1 says that, before the game starts, the home school (i.e. the Athletic Director or game manager) has the sole authority to determine whether the game can be played. After the game starts, that decision is up to the referee. However, please accept input from the AD or game manager during the game about current conditions. That could be updated air quality readings, temperature, approaching wind storm, etc.

It is very, very important that we use NFHS soccer rules and not IFAB/FIFA or NCAA rules. In my experience, the two areas that are most likely to trip us up are 1. When does the clock stop and 2. When can teams substitute. Even in sub-varsity games, the clock must stop at the same points that it should in varsity games. Goals, cards, penalty kicks, injuries, water breaks and any time you feel it is appropriate to stop the clock to bring justice to the game.

That last part might be situations like the ball has gone far, far away in the last minutes of a close game, a foul committed in the last minute to waste time, etc. And don't forget that the clock also stops when the team that is winning subs in the last five minutes of the game, regardless of whether the other team is subbing or not. There are no subs allowed on free kicks, unless they are the result of an injury or a card has been issued, of course.

It is very important that the referee crew manages the stadium clock, checking that it has stopped when it is supposed to be stopped and restarted when it is supposed to be restarted. The clock operator may tell you that they've been doing this for years, but they are inattentive to the game and don't stop it appropriately.

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