

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #7

We are almost at the end of the regular season. You should be aware that your varsity game may decide whether one or both teams make the playoffs this year. At least some leagues schedule the rivalry games for their last game of the regular season. Please check www.osaa.org and click on boys soccer or girls soccer to see how the standings are in the league. Your game may also be the last game of the season for a team that isn't making the playoffs. It may be their last soccer game ever for the seniors. Emotions can run high in these games.

Unfortunately, there are always a few seniors who get the idea that they should end their high school career with a red card. They are always from teams that are not going to make the playoffs. It is always late in the game that they do this. If you have behavior that fits this profile, give the red card! If you just go with a caution, they will escalate until you have no choice.

Many varsity games are also 'senior night.' You might ask the home coach if this is senior night and how they are going to handle it. We have no role in senior night ceremonies, so just stay back, out of the picture, literally and figuratively. Let the home school do their thing, even if it means the game starts late or halftime runs longer than ten minutes.

With cooler weather, some players may want to wear something under their short sleeve shirts or shorts or both. It is not unusual for opposing coaches to ask 'is that legal?' The technical name is "visible apparel." The rules about this (4.1.1.d) say that everyone on the team does not have to wear visible apparel. Those who choose to do so, however, all have to wear the same solid color apparel. It is also supposed to be the same length on both arms or both legs. That means that, for example, the player can't wear only one warming sleeve. Both arms or neither. The same goes for legs.

I have noticed an increased number of players with earrings, both boys and girls. I think we all know that they are not legal. Tape over them does not make them legal. If the players are being introduced, it is a great opportunity to look for all kinds of jewelry as they run out to fist bump you. Having a wooly over them doesn't make them legal either. The OSAA adoptions say that soft caps are legal to wear, provided that everyone on the team wearing one must be wearing the same color.

Sometimes we have substitutes waiting to enter. When there is a stoppage, make a quick glance over to see if there is someone there. Coaches get irritated when their subs don't get into the game at a stoppage that is a legal sub opportunity. There is always a fine line around a player coming running up to be allowed to enter. Technically, if they were not there before the ball went out of play (e.g. throw-in, goal kick, corner kick), they cannot enter.

However, If there's another player, from either team, still standing there, you should let the late arriving sub enter also. Just don't wait for someone to take off their warmups at the bench and then run up. Sorry, that's too late. Especially at this time of the season, there may be players and or coaches trying to waste time by subbing, if they are ahead. Remember that, in the last five minutes of the game (or the second overtime period in the playoffs), the clock stops if the winning team subs, even if the other team is also subbing.

You may also see time wasting on the field or players slow to get the ball for a throw-in. Some of the players seem to think that you won't notice or you won't do anything. Under rule 7.4.1, you have the authority to stop the clock. If, for example, the keeper is taking a leisurely walk to get the ball for a goal kick, you can stop the clock. It may also help end the behavior if you say something like "Take your time, keep. We've got the clock stopped."

Playoff officials must attend the annual pre-playoff training or view the PowerPoint on line. You have probably heard most or all of it before. It is important, however, that we recognize that the expectations are higher for these games. There are a number of administrative items that come with doing these games. For example, you have to count the number of players warming up because OSAA rules limit the number of players, not only on the roster, but also warming up. So please pay attention to the presentation and ask your commissioner if you have any questions.

Be safe out there.

Patrick Duffy
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