

# Oregon Schools Activities Association

## Soccer SRI Bulletin #2

### 2021-2022

Most teams have now played their first game. I know that there have been the usual number of players with jewelry, facilities not quite ready for prime time, uniforms still on order, etc. We just have to remind the coaches, politely and collegially, about what has to happen in order to play the game today and perhaps suggest what would be better for the next game.

There have been a bunch of coaches and athletic directors very concerned about not having the 'official' roster, "what do we have to do?" etc. The roster they can enter through the OSAA website is a convenience. It is not mandatory. NFHS Rule 3.1.3 says that each team must submit a roster with the first and last names and numbers of all players and bench personnel. That's it. If they have to, they can write it out. The names that are sometimes missing are the coaches, trainer, etc. If they aren't on the roster, ask them to add them. Why? If they get a caution or worse during the game, it will be a whole lot easier if you don't have to ask them their name or try to figure out which coach in the team picture on line is the one you carded.

As you know, NFHS rules were changed last year so that a drop ball will be a more frequent restart. Let's review the basics of a drop ball. A whistle is required for a restart "as necessary." 5.3.1.a. If you feel a whistle is necessary, whistle before you drop the ball, not after. If you do it after you've dropped the ball, the whistle means stop play, which is not what you want. 9.2.3 "The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground." That means you do not roll the ball to the player, bend over to drop it from a foot above the ground, etc. Both of these incorrect procedures also potentially place you in danger, because as soon as the ball touches the ground, the player is entitled to kick it, quite possibly where your body still is.

I have received some comments from your fellow officials to the effect that some of us are using personal opinion rather than the NFHS rules. Yes, referees have to use their best judgment on a lot of game situations. Was that enough of a push that I should call it? Was the ball all of the way over the line? And so on. But we do not have discretion to decide, for example, that, oh, well, I'll let the red team sub now because they've been waiting a long time. That is an error in your application of the rules. Think of the difference this way: You have to judge whether what you just saw was a trip and whether it was something that should be called. You do not have the right to decide that all tripping should not be penalized. We are being paid to enforce the NFHS rules as written. Coaches, players, athletic directors and spectators all know that we have to make judgement calls. They also know that we don't make up the rules. Don't be 'the referee last week' who let them do things that the rules don't allow.

A few other things: tape does not make jewelry legal to be worn. (Medic alert bracelets are not treated as jewelry.) Please look back at every potential substitution opportunity to see if there are subs waiting to enter. Every time, even if the previous one was five seconds ago. OSAA has asked us to just give the card for inappropriate language, color depending on what was said and how. We don't give warnings anymore. The coaches all know this as well, so you will look weak in their eyes if you don't give the card. And that will let them think that you can be persuaded to call things their way if they yell at you enough.

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