

Oregon School Activities Association

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We have had several game incidents this week and I applaud the referees who have dealt immediately, strongly and correctly with these situations. As you have heard before, discriminatory language must be dealt with by giving a red card and the reason for all cards, yellow or red, must be reported to the head coaches of both teams. This year, OSAA has instituted higher penalties for these incidents. Please be sure to include in your game report the exact words that the referees heard. Officials who heard what was said but who were not the one giving the card should also include what they heard in their game report.

When a red is given for a second caution, the officials must report three cards, with the reason for each card. The reason for the red, of course, is just "second caution," but the reason for both cautions must be shown in the game report.

Please be careful to use the correct terms in your game reports. "Careless" describes behavior that is just a foul, with no card. "Reckless" describes behavior that rises to the level of a caution. "Excessive force" is the reason for an ejection. The terms you use can make a difference. If, for example, you report that you gave a red card for a 'reckless tackle from behind,' the red could be protested because that would be a caution, not an ejection. If what you saw was an ejection offense, the term "excessive force" should be used.

IFAB this year made players responsible for the size of the shin guards that they choose to wear. Immediately, we have seen professional games where some players are wearing teeny-tiny shin guards, no bigger than a playing card. That change was NOT made to NFHS rules. For the protection of all players, shin guards must be size appropriate, as reported by the NOCSAE emblem on the shin guard, showing the height range of the player for which they are suited.

Normally, if we decide that the coach should be cautioned for dissent while play is continuing, we will wait for a stoppage to give the caution. However, there are times, particularly when the dissent is particularly loud and/or the players are beginning to join in, that we have to stop play to give the card. What is the restart in that case? 13.2.3.b makes it clear that the restart is an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped.

NFHS rules make a distinction between an excessive celebration of a goal 12.5.1.f.11 and taunting 12.6.1.e.1. Excessive celebration is a caution. Taunting is an ejection. The referee

has to make a judgement about whether the player(s) behavior was over the top celebration or taunting. This comes into play (so to speak) when the players orient themselves towards the spectators. Facing their own fans may not even be excessive celebration as long as it does go on too long. Facing opposing fans or even the opposing team's bench is almost certain to be taunting. Normally, there is a ring leader among the players doing this and that's the player that the referee should caution or eject. It is possible that more than one player may also deserve to see plastic but the usual expectation is that there will be one player penalized.

We frequently use the dual system, even on some varsity games. Assignors will designate one of the officials as the "head referee" (R1) and the other as the "referee." (R2) R1 is on the bench side of the field. Rule 5 outlines the things for which R1 has the authority to decide. 5.2.2 and 5.3.2. Otherwise, both officials are equally responsible. R1 cannot overrule R2's decisions. You should approach these assignments as a team of equals, who have to work together for the good of the game. If you have problems with the attitude of a fellow official, you should discuss that with your assignor.

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