

Oregon School Activities Association

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The National Federation of State High School Associations has produced a video, which reviews starts and restarts specifically for high school games. Here's a link to the video:

<https://nfhslearn.com/library/videos/officiating-soccer-starts-and-restarts>

Please be sure that you use the correct terms when describing the reason for cards.

“Careless” means committing a foul which shows a lack of attention, a lack of consideration for what could happen when challenging an opponent. These fouls should be whistled (or advantage signaled) but no card should be given.

“Reckless” means committing a foul with disregard for the danger to or consequences for the opponent. These fouls should be whistled, the clock stopped, and a yellow card given, followed by the player leaving the field of play and both coaches informed of the reason, which will be ‘unsporting conduct.’ They can, of course, be replaced. Advantage can be applied, although it should be a much clearer advantage than one that involves a careless foul. If advantage is given, the referee must stop play and the clock at the next stoppage of play and give the caution.

“Excessive force” means use of excess force for the situation and thereby endangering the safety of the opponent. Of course, such fouls must be whistled, the clock stopped and a red card given, followed by the player leaving the field and the referee explaining the reason, ‘serious foul play,’ to both coaches. The player cannot be replaced, unless they were the goalkeeper, in which case a new goalkeeper can replace them but a field player must also leave the field.

I have seen a number of yellow cards given for what was described as “excess force.” Using that term in connection with a yellow card can be interpreted as saying that you made a mistake and should have given the player a red card. That will make you look bad and it will create administrative problems with the schools and coaches.

There continues to be yellow cards given for players kicking the ball away after they or their teammate has committed a foul. Of course, the reason to do this, is to delay the restart of play by the opponent. You should not feel like you are being too tough on them by giving cards for this behavior. It is clearly listed as unsporting conduct in the NFHS rule book. If you give the card the first time, the players (and coaches) will get the message that this is not acceptable.

Under OSAA rules, the game manager is supposed to offer to escort the officials to their cars after the game. Before the game, you are expected to identify who the game manager is. This may be the Athletic Director of the home school or some other person standing in for

them. (On sub-varsity games, it is the home team's head coach.) Of course, at that point in the day, you do not know how the game is going to go. Usually, things are fine after the game but sometimes not. Please ask the game manager to meet you at your bags after the game. If they do and everything went fine, you can thank them and wave them off at that point. If not, it can avoid some potentially very difficult situations. This is particularly true at those game sites where the officials have to exit to the parking lot through the same route the spectators are using.

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