

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #6

2024

The high school season seems to be going well. There will, of course, always be yellow and red cards, but referees seem, for the most part, to be giving them for good reasons and sending appropriate messages to players and a few coaches.

However, we should expect that things will heat up from here. Most leagues (“districts”) have started league play in the last week. Now the games take on more meaning for the players and coaches and a #1 v #2 in the league could be a different game than #1 v #8.

There have been a few uniform issues at the sub varsity level. Full size shin guards are still required. No jewelry, including watches, is allowed. Mismatched uniforms are permitted at the sub varsity level. Of course, that doesn’t mean the players can have wildly different color shirts or socks. We know, however, that many or most JV teams inherit uniforms from prior year varsity teams after this year’s varsity got new ones. Numbers are still required. If there are duplicate numbers, try to see if the team has a spare shirt with a different number. And the rosters **MUST** show the shirt number for all players. Yes, I’ve seen some rosters with names but no numbers.

Speaking of uniforms and equipment, remember that there is a difference between a player who is illegally equipped and a player who is improperly equipped. Improperly equipped means that the player has everything they are supposed to have but they are not wearing it correctly. For example, teeny shin guards are illegal equipment. Wearing legal shin guards turned around so they are on the calf instead of the shin is improper. A shirt with no number would also be improper. Remember that there is a difference in how we deal with illegally equipped players, most specifically the yellow card that gets issued, while there is no card for improper. They just have to leave the field to fix their outfit.

There have already been a number of cautions for persistent infringement. Persistent infringement is a series of careless fouls committed either by one player or by multiple players against one opponent. The referee crew has to remember who has been committing fouls and note who has been the target of them. Typically, two such fouls close to each other should result in a reminder that they’ve committed enough. A further foul, especially close in time, should result in a caution for persistent infringement. This is different than reckless fouls, where a caution is given for the first such foul.

High school rules make a distinction between incidental use of vulgar or profane language (a caution), dissent (also a caution) and insulting, offensive or abusive language, which includes any taunting of an opposing player or coach, a referee or one or more spectators (an ejection.) Language that is directed at an official or an opponent must always be an ejection.

Please be aware that NFHS rules have some slight differences than IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game when it comes to handling by defenders in the penalty area. But handling in the penalty area which denies the attackers an obvious goal scoring opportunity is punished by a penalty kick and a caution to the defender, if it was an attempt to play the ball. If it was not an attempt to play the ball then there is no card, no penalty kick and we play on. It is your decision, not the attackers (or the defenders) opinion that counts. And that's why the referees are there, as neutral parties making these decisions.

Enjoy the nice weather while we can!

Patrick Duffy
OSAA State Soccer Rules Interpreter