

# Oregon Schools Activities Association

## Soccer SRI Bulletin #2

### 2020-2021

This is going to be a crazy season, as we all knew from the beginning. One commissioner has reported that, so far, half of the games on the schedule have been changed. Thank you for being flexible by switching to new assignments, picking up additional games and just generally rolling with the punches. Some of the changes have been due to the schools not knowing how many teams they were going to have. Those issues should be settled down by now.

Of course, there have been a number of issues come up already:

**The mercy rule.** No matter what the score is, we are going to play at least the first half. If one team is ahead at halftime by eight or more goals, then the game is over. If the difference in the score is seven or less at half time, we start the second half. If the difference becomes eight at any point in the second half, the game is over. This new OSAA rule applies to all OSAA soccer games, varsity, JV, JV2, middle school. It is not optional. If a game is considered complete because of this mercy rule, please include the game time when the game ended.

**Language.** If derogatory language of a racial, ethnic, gender, gender preference or religious nature is reported to you by a player or coach, stop the game and stop the clock. The referee is then to ask both coaches to meet with their team (players and subs) to discuss the use of such derogatory language. This should only take a couple of minutes but please don't hurry up such a discussion by the coaches. It is NOT an opportunity to discuss game strategy or tactics with the players. The normal restart in this case should be a drop ball, unless play was already stopped for some other reason. The same procedure must be used if any official heard derogatory language and a red card disqualification is being given. This coaches' discussion with their team is not optional.

**More language.** Even if it is not specifically derogatory, as described above, some player language may still be offensive, insulting or abusive. High school rules also treat some language as "incidental vulgar or profane" language. Any offensive, insulting or abusive language directed towards another player, a coach, a referee or assistant referee, spectators, or whole classes of people has to be a red card disqualification. The schools do not want their student athletes using language like that while representing the school. (And certainly not their coaching staff.) Language like "you suck, ref" is directed and must be a red card. A F-bomb uttered in frustration as a result of a poor shot, on the other hand, should normally fall into the incidental vulgar language category and must be a caution.

High school games in Oregon are played at a number of venues, not just on the home school's property. Most of us know that there are limitations or other restrictions on the

number of spectators at high school sports this spring, including soccer. Venues like public parks make it difficult to restrict the number of spectators. Those potential issues, however, are not the job of the referees. It is up to the host school's administration to deal with those problems. And we have enough issues on the field of our own.

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