

Oregon School Activities Association

Soccer Bulletin #5

2018

Sometimes, I think that I won't have anything new to discuss in these bulletins. And then games happen.

We had a major issue on a game last week, one of the worst incidents in years. I won't go through the details of what happened, but we should review some basic operating procedures. First, I'm going to suggest that you position your bags, water bottle, etc. in a location that allows you to make a quick exit after the game, without having to go near the benches. Plan for this in advance.

Second, if no game manager (usually the athletic director) introduces themselves to the crew before a varsity game, ask. Ask the home coach if there is a game manager and where they are. If you have a pretty good guess (e.g. the person putting out the corner flags), ask them if they are the game manager and, if so, where they will be during the game. If there is no designated game manager, you should include that in your game report and treat the home school's coach as the manager during the game

Third, after the game, please, please, please, your crew should move to each other, probably jogging. Do not stop to shag balls, do not stop to shake hands, do not stop to give or receive opinions from players, coaches or spectators. Go to your bags! Yes, sometimes coaches will send their players to you to shake hands/fist bump, so don't be a jerk about it, but you should already be at your bags, getting ready to depart, before they get to you. You are not be impolite by doing this. You are simply following OSAA expectations. And I have no problem with giving a friendly wave when a team yells "thank you, refs!" from a distance. But coaches or spectators coming your way are not coming to tell you what a great job you did. Get moving.

Given that the weather is cooling off now, I recommend that you have your jacket waiting for you, with your car keys and phone in the pockets. Slide on the jacket, pick up your bag and you are on your way to the parking lot. If hostiles get to you before you can get away, keep walking and ignore them. You can and should still give cards while you are in area if players or coaches insist on it. By that I mean using offensive, insulting or abusive language or trying to physically block your path. It is okay to not show the card, however, if you think that may only inflame the situation more. You should still report it to your commissioner.

The game manager is supposed to offer the crew an escort to your cars. If you get such an offer, thank them for doing so because it is very rare that actually happens. If there was anything controversial about the game, accept the offer. Do not make eye contact with anyone else approaching

you and certainly do not engage in any way with them. There is NOTHING good that will come from a parking lot discussion about the game. If the crew wants to debrief and de-stress together after the game, please do so away from the game site. If someone is acting aggressively towards you, hitting your car, etc., call 911 immediately. Better that you call when nothing happens than not call when you should have. And you should immediately report what happened to your commissioner. They will follow up with the schools and OSAA. Please do not take your personal safety for granted.

Whew! That's a lot, but it, honestly, is much more important for the good of high school sports than whether you correctly applied all the ins and outs of offside.

There have been a number of games where the referee reported things that were said but they referee gave a yellow card instead of a red or gave no card at all. Anything racial is red, period, end of discussion. Ditto for sexist, gender preference, ethnicity or religious prejudicial comments. They have no place in high school sports. No school wants their students or coaches saying those things. F-bombs are definitely 'offensive, insulting or abusive' language, especially when followed by "you." Anything that is a threat, to an opponent or an official, is red. Even if you are the only one who hears it. If such language is coming from spectators, stop the game and have the game manager deal with it. Do not restart the game until it has been handled. It would be wise in such a situation to tell the coaches why you have to hold up the restart of the game.

If we're having problems like this now, you should expect that there will be even more such problems when league play begins and old rivals meet up.

Just two little things about equipment: First, OSAA has granted an exemption to the markings/manufacturer's logo rules for pink socks that some teams may wear in October for breast cancer awareness month. They are pink, of course, and have multiple pink ribbon symbols woven into them. Second, there have been a few players wearing rubber plugs of some kind to fill in the holes left when they remove ear rings or nose rings. These are still considered to be 'worn for adornment' and are to be treated as jewelry. There have not been any exemptions granted for this stuff.

Patrick Duffy

OSAA State Rules Interpreter