



Central Oregon Soccer Officials Association Newsletter August 31, 2018

Dear Awesome High School Soccer Referees,

Thank you to all of you hard working guys and gals for helping with the High School work load so far. I also appreciate all your patience and understanding with the few games that have been cancelled because of the Air Quality issues ... some things are out of our hands!

I did had a few notes about stuff that has come up, that I wanted to share with all of you. I didn't want to wait until our Sep. 12th meeting to share this stuff with you.

- Our calendar of Upcoming Meetings/Trainings is down below. Remember we voted and will now be starting our meetings at 6:30 pm, in order to get everybody home a little sooner. Our goal is to always be done before or by 8:00 pm.
- Some of the schools with smaller soccer programs have only been able to field JV teams consisting of 8 or 9 kids. The OSAA Protocol is that 8 or 9 vs. 8 or 9 is OK; but OSAA told me this morning that 7 vs. 7 is not acceptable.
- The other OSAA Rule that everybody should be aware of is that all players may play in a half of a JV game and a half of a Varsity game; or vice versa (play a half in the varsity match and then play a half in the JV match). Players who swing from Varsity to JV (or vice versa) are not supposed to play more than a half in each game.
 - As Officials, we will not be aware of how much each player has played in their various matches. We are not responsible for checking the playing time of players swinging JV/Varsity. That is the job of the Coach and AD.
 - If there are players lined up to play, we are supposed to referee their match.
 - If a Coach or AD notices that an opposing player is playing in excess of the OSAA Rule and expresses that concern to you, then we simply put that in our Game Report (under Abnormal Situations) and then the ADs and OSAA will work it out amongst themselves; but as Officials we don't have to cancel or terminate their game. That decision rests with the Coaches & ADs, since they know the minutes that their kids

have been playing, and whether they are playing with 'ineligible' players for that match. OSAA fines the schools heavily for playing with ineligible players and the fact that the Referee allowed them to play is not a defense for the schools who violate that rule

- I've heard from a few concerned Coaches already ... asking about ways to minimize injuries in games. It seems that every year, there are some hard tackles that result in injuries to players. Unfortunately, what parents and coaches see (or claim) when somebody comes in with a hard tackle or challenge that possibly injures another player, is that the player who slid hard or challenged recklessly had done so several times before and was not spoken to, cautioned or addressed by the Referee. Coaches and parents get upset at Officials who allow the same player to foul recklessly multiple times without facing any consequences until after they have fouled enough that somebody is laying there injured. In listening to the concerned Coaches and Parents, what I feel they want more of from us Referees is:
 - A little tighter control and management of the games, and less of "letting them play".
 - A few more Yellow Cards to calm the players down and avoid letting the fouls escalate or increase in intensity or frequency.
 - More verbal and public discussions with players on their first hard foul of the game, so that the same player is not being allowed to foul three more times, before being cautioned or possibly injuring another player.
 - Better recognition that the Girls can be just as aggressive and 'reckless' as the boys and that these guidelines should apply to them as well. Statistically, Referees have been less prone to caution Girls than Boys, and the injury rate for Girls is just as high as the boys. Do not be afraid to caution the Girls when they challenge recklessly. Just like the boys ... they are not all perfect angels!

- Always remember that the Referees are supposed to be the Good Guys out there. We do not argue with Coaches or players ... we do not yell back when others are yelling or screaming at us ... we do not show frustration or anger on or off the field of play ... we are completely neutral and hopefully ... non-emotional. We have to control our emotions (mostly our anger and frustration) in order to make good judgements out there. We lose control of the game, when we let our anger and frustration, dictate our management of the players/coaches and contest.
 - Let the Coach or player vent, bitch, complain, say whatever they want. Write down what they said in your book and then either have a brief & calm conversation with them to help them improve their behavior or give them a Caution/Yellow Card and walk away (don't yell or argue back). Put what they said in your Game Report and then it will be the Athletic Director's responsibility to deal with them. We do not need to lecture the Coaches or Players out there. We're out there to call the fouls.

- Don't forget to fill out and update your Availability at least 2-3 weeks ahead. Email or communicate with Nathaniel if there are changes to your schedule ... so we aren't having to reassign and change assignments around at the last minute. Please be professional.

- Remember that if you have any issues or problems with a Coach, Fan, Parent or Player ... that you should put it in your Game Report or Call/Text me.

- Remember to fill out your Game Reports (on Oregon Soccer Central) the night of your game ... not 2-3 days later.
- Remember if you give a Red Card ... that you need to call/text or email me that night ... so I can get it taken care of. Your Game Report on a Red Card better be clean, professional and perfect; since it will be getting read by the AD/OSAA/and the State Rules Interpreter.

Sorry to be so 'wordy'. Look forward to working with you guys soon,

Mehdi
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--- UPCOMING EVENTS ---
 Please stick these dates and times on your calendar.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	WHAT'S HAPPENING	AGENDA	NOTES
Sep. 12, 2018	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	St. Charles Medical Center (Bend) East Dining Room	3 rd COSOA Training Meeting	Training: TBA	
Sep. 26, 2018	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	St. Charles Medical Center (Bend) East Dining Room	4 th COSOA Training Meeting	Training: TBA	
Oct. 10, 2018	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	St. Charles Medical Center (Bend) East Dining Room	5 th General Training Meeting	Training: TBA	
Oct. 24, 2018	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	St. Charles Medical Center (Bend) East Dining Room	6 th General Training Meeting	Training: TBA	