

2017 Pre-Season Points of Emphasis

Risk Minimization

The focus on minimizing injuries in high school soccer focuses on two main areas: concussions and rough play.

Concussions – if you have watched the concussion awareness video every year you should be familiar with the signs of a possible concussion. Make sure you stop play as soon as possible if you think a player may have suffered a concussion or any type of head injury. It is your responsibility to make sure that a player who is exhibiting the symptoms of a concussion is removed from play. It is NOT your responsibility to exam this player to determine if they can re-enter the game. This is the responsibility of a qualified trainer or medical professional. If the same player re-enters the game and continues to show symptoms then have them sit again. At this point the coach should do the right thing and leave them out of the game.

Shinguards – these are one part of several required pieces of soccer equipment. When a coach tells you their team will be properly and legally equipped at kickoff they are verifying that shinguards have not been altered, are worn under the sock, and are worn with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle. They must also fit the respective player based on his/her size and age.

Headgear – though not required, soft-padded headgear is allowed to be worn by any soccer player provided there are no hard or sharp pieces or edges.

Rough Play – research is showing that more and more concussions are being caused not by blows to the head but rough play. The use of elbows, forearms, and also the body can cause enough force to an opponent's body where the head, neck or torso shakes or is jarred. Calling these fouls earlier and often will send a message to both teams that such play will not be tolerated. If the fouls are severe enough don't be afraid to use your caution, regardless of whether it is the first two minutes of the game or the last.

Referee Communication & Teamwork

Active and effective communication among referees with coaches and team captains is critical to ensure successful game management. Equally important is communication on the field between referee partners. This starts with a pre-game conference – arrive at the field early enough to spend 5-10 minutes talking with your partner about positioning, re-starts, and substitution management. It continues during the game with verbal and non-verbal signals for substitutions, re-starts and stoppages of play. Everyone needs to be consistent AND clear with their signals and mechanics when making a call.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECLARING THE BALL “READY-FOR-PLAY” WHEN A RE-START WHISTLE IS REQUIRED:

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Official</u>
Start of each half	Trail
Kick off after goal	Trail
Drop Ball	Trail
Goal Kick	Trail
Corner Kick	Lead
Penalty Kick	Lead
Free Kick	Lead
Throw-in	Official responsible for ruling on legality of the throw.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW THESE AND BE CONSISTENT !!!

Eye contact between both officials is a must on all re-starts. This allows both to be ready for anything that might occur leading up to the resumption of play. Use a pointing of your arm to your partner to ask if they are ready. Respond with pointing back.

HANDLING SUBSTITUTIONS

The bench side official is responsible for beckoning players on to the field as substitutions. Eye contact between both officials here is key as well. The official responsible for whistling the re-start must be made aware that all players have left or entered the field and are ready for play. Use the same arm signaling technique.

OTHER SITUATIONS

Play on – official who is recognizing and calling the play-on make sure you call it loud and signal it as well. The other official should signal the play-on as well. If the play-on situation is occurring in the middle of the field and neither the lead or trail recognizes it be patient. One of you can call it out and signal – don’t rush whistling the play as soon as the foul occurs. See if advantage develops.

Vulgar or Profane Language

Incidental use of vulgar or profane language by a player or coach must be penalized with a caution (yellow card). (MIAA 78.2.2) If a player uses such language in frustration, under their breath, verbally warn the player. If a player makes a loud outburst, not directed at anyone but loud enough for other player and spectators to hear then a caution is warranted. Address this in your pre-game with the captains.