

**Email sent to all ADs**

- Goals at all venues, from middle school up to high school varsity must be securely anchored before a game can start.
- If goals are not properly anchored then the game officials can delay the start of the game until the problem has been rectified.
- Allow the coach, contest manager, or school staff 10-15 minutes to secure the goals. Be courteous and respectful when requesting the attention to the goals. Remind the school that all the ADs have been notified about this requirement. Remember – we are there to support the kids and want the game to be played as much as they do.
- Player backpacks and bags should only be used as a last resort and should NOT be recommended as a fix by the game officials. If used, the bags must be heavy enough to hold down the goal. Most likely 3-4 bags will need to be used per goal. If the coach asks to use the bags please confirm with him/her that he is now responsible for any damage done to the bags during the course of the game.
- Also requested of the ADs is for them to have MIAA Game & Roster sheets for all levels of high school soccer.

**Game Management**

- Games become more competitive as we get late into the season and closer to tournament time. It is not the time to be lenient. If you see a foul – blow the whistle. If you see someone start to lose control – talk to them and give them a verbal warning. If it happens again: do not verbally warn. Pull your card. Remember that persistent infringement can be committed by a team, not just an individual. Teams may start to adopt a style of play that lets them stretch the rules or be overly aggressive.
- Clock management is important especially in tight games where a team is pressing with little time left. Be consistent with when you stop and start the game clock. Be clear with your hand signals that signify the game clock is stopped. Officials on the bench side: make sure you know when you partner

on the far side has stopped the clock for an injury or a caution. While not required, communication to players and coaches on how much time is left is often helpful. Remember: the clock does not start again until *the ball is in play*.

### **Position & Anticipation**

- the official who consistently makes the correct call usually does so because he/she has anticipated the flow of the game and is in the right position to see the player interaction and possible infraction. Know if you will need to get a head start to stay with a speedy attacking player. Know that one of the teams likes to play long balls over the defensive line and send in attacking players to beat the defenders. If you are the lead and a ball is on the goal line between the posts, you need to be on or near the goal line to make the call on whether it is a goal. Not up above the penalty box. A coach is going to have an easier time believing you made the right call if you are on that goal line, in the right position.