

**Late Season Games** - games take on a greater importance as teams are vying for tournament eligibility. It becomes important for us as officials to make sure we are managing the clock as accurately as possible. It is also imperative that we make calls right from the opening whistle. Do not allow to a rough foul to go unheeded as this may escalate into retaliation or even rougher fouls. Early in the game take the time talk to a player and verbally warn him/her about their play. Manage the game tightly right from the outset. No one wants a season-ending injury to occur in the last week of the season.

**Mechanics** –Making sure you make the correct signal with your arm(s) is a vital way to communicate to players, coaches AND your partner. Use your whistle to make sure players respect the 10 yards on a free kick. Arms crossed over the head is the correct signal for the game clock being stopped. Whistle first, arms crossed second, stop your clock third. Make sure we ALL are doing this.

**Advantage** – there have been complaints from coaches about officials enforcing (or not enforcing) the advantage rule in many different situations. If you see a foul and think the fouled player may maintain control of the ball..... be patient and hold your whistle. If the player loses control blow the whistle. If they maintain control, use BOTH a verbal and physical signal. Important that the players, coaches, and your officiating partner know that you have allowed play to continue.

In the penalty box, your decisions have a greater importance. Your whistle may have to be quicker if a serious scoring opportunity is taken away. POSITION is very important in these situations. If you are the lead don't let yourself be caught trailing the action if it is right in front of the goal.

**Board Patches** – all officials MUST wear their board patch while officiating games.

**Captain's Armbands** – these are to be worn on the arms, not on the legs. This is officials can better identify the team captains. Good time to mention this is at the pre-game conference.

**MIAA Tournament** – if you are eligible for the MIAA State Tournament games make sure you print out and read the entire section of rules for the tournament. The link to the rules is below:

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/Soccerformat2017.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/Soccerformat2017.pdf)

If you are assigned a tournament game make sure you bring these rules to the game and have them with you on the sideline. You must know these rules inside and out. A two-official system is used up to the sectional semi-finals where it changes to a three-official system, similar to the USSF system. Most of the tournament games are played at night, crowds are larger and more vocal, and player and coaches are more on edge. Make sure everyone is clear on substitution protocol, on the tie-breaking procedures, and the importance of staying in the “team/bench” area. Many coaches and team tend to creep up on the touchline during the game, obstructing your view of the touchline and preventing you from making correct calls. Correct this situation early on in the game. Some other recommendations:

- Get to the field at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. Do not hang out near fans or the stands, meet your partner and enter the field together.
- Check in with the site administrator and identify the ball holders working the game.
- Go over the tie-breaking procedures with each member of your crew before the game, identifying which official will administer the kicks from the penalty spot and which one will spot the keeper. Choose a goal for the PKs before the game.
- The MIAA wants officials to be consistent with what uniforms they wear during the tournament. Each crew should have the same color, same sleeve

lengths, black shorts, and the same black socks with three white stripes at the top (the Official Sports style with logo mid-leg is not recommended). Hats can be worn in extreme cold conditions (black only). Knits hats should not be worn over the ears – it is important to be able to hear the game and communication between players and also your partner.

- ***PLEASE NOTE: the current thin stripe USSF-style jersey can be worn for opening round tournament games.*** All crews must be matching.
- Once the game has ended, handshakes have been made, and your responsibilities for officiating the game are complete, leave the venue immediately. Do not hang around to watch team celebrations or warm downs.
- Other notes from the MIAA regarding the tournament:
  - a) All boys' games must have a game manager provided by the home team.
  - b) For games played at neutral sites, the site director will assign ball persons. In the earlier rounds, the home team **MUST** supply ball persons. Do not start the game unless these individuals have been provided.
  - c) All teams must have rosters and there must be a game sheet.
  - d) Home team uniforms must be solid light-colored with light-colored socks. Away team uniforms must be dark-colored with dark-colored socks.
  - e) Official time is kept on the field by the officials.
  - f) Timeouts – each team is allowed a one-minute timeout per half and each extended time period. Timeouts, if not used, are **NOT** cumulative. Timeouts cannot be granted during any set of overtime penalty kicks.
  - g) Officials have the authority to determine what is “dangerous” on the playing field.
  - h) If the entire first half or more of a game is played, the game is considered official
  - i) If the game continues to PKs, the officials choose which goal to use for the kicks.
  - j)