

Update to an MIAA rule change mentioned at last meeting:

When a head coach or assistant coach receives a red card disqualification they must leave the vicinity of the playing field. Effective this year, the contest may continue if appropriate administration is available. Appropriate administration is defined as a second coach on the bench, a principal, assistant principal, or athletic director. The second coach must be on the game roster. (78.2.13) The match must NOT be delayed to search for a replacement coach. A reminder that all red card disqualifications need to be reported on the MIAA scoresheet and a Coach's Disqualification Form must be filled out, signed and turned into the school.

Issues

- **The assignors have asked that any red card awarded to a player, red or yellow card awarded to a coach, be reported to the assignor for that game as soon as possible after the game. They would like to know about the incident so they are not caught off-guard by a phone call from a school's AD.**
- **When you accept a game it is your responsibility to show up to that game. If there is a situation where there is impending bad weather it is your responsibility to check with the school on the game. Don't wait for the school to call you. If the schools decide to try and play you are still required to show up. Once at the field you can monitor the weather with the site administrator (if available).**
- **Bad weather: the rule is if you hear thunder or see lightning in the immediate vicinity of the field you must wait 30 minutes to start the game. If you hear or see these signs again as you're waiting, the 30 minute clock starts all over. How long you wait for the weather to pass is up to the site administrator or the two coaches.**
- **Use of the whistle is not always needed when a ball goes out of bounds. (ex. if it clearly exits the playing field) The whistle is required to signal a foul but is not required for the re-start if the ball is in position to be played. If there is a substitution, a second whistle MUST be used to re-start play. When play is stopped to set a wall prior to a free kick a second whistle MUST be used to re-start play. Be consistent with your partner and consistent with re-starts for both teams. (Rule 9, Art.3)**
- **It was noticed during several pre-season scrimmages across the Cape that officials were not interpreting the offside rule correctly. A player can receive a pass in an offside position provided he/she was in an onside position at the time the ball was**

played to them. An example observed was a player in an onside position running past the defenders for a pass. The line of defenders stop, hoping to catch the player offside. But the pass was made when this player was still onside. In these instances we need to be able to see both the ball and the position of the leading attacking player relative to the second to last defender. Easier said than done in the two-man system, but something we all should be working on to improve.

SITUATIONS

- NFHS rules state that the HOME team SHALL supply ball holders and the VISITING team MAY provide ball holders. We should strongly request the home team provide them. If they do not and the visiting team does.... fine.
- **QUESTION:** If neither team provides ball holders what do you do?
- **ANSWER:** have the home team supply extra game balls at midfield and behind each goal. Ask the home coach before the start of the game to have someone responsible for retrieving the balls at intervals throughout the game. If this is not done then the home team MUST NOT profit from their not fulfilling their responsibility.

Therefore, you should do the following:

- - - - - Stop the game clock on all out of bounds (throw-ins, corner kicks, goal kicks) if the ball is not readily available. Do this ONLY if the visiting team is losing.
- - - - - If the HOME team is losing just let the clock run while they chase the ball down.

This is consistent with what other boards in the state have been doing about this issue for both varsity and JV games. We need to be consistent and start enforcing this action immediately. As the official timer for the game, an official has the discretion to stop the game clock for any number of reasons. Make sure you correctly signal that time has been stopped so your partner (who may be the bench side official) knows as well.

SITUATION:

An offensive player breaks away from the defenders and has a 1v1 versus the goalkeeper. He is tripped up from behind by a defender inside the penalty area with no shot taken. PK is called and the lead official identifies this as a DOGSO (denying obvious goal scoring opportunity) but in the chaos that follows the call official calling the PK cannot identify the number of the defender who committed the foul. He loses him in the confusion and crowd of players. The attack happened too quickly and the trail official could not get into position quickly enough to see who the offending player was. Here is the lead, red card in hand, but cannot identify who should be disqualified. What should the official do?

ANSWER: We ask.

The penalty for a foul in a DOGSO situation always need to be assessed. This foul and the resulting penalty (red card disqualification) can have a huge impact on the final result of the game. What happens when we are not sure about who scored a goal or got the assist? We ask. Use your pre-game talk with the captains to thank them for their leadership and ask them if you can count on them for help if you need it during the game. Make them feel as if they are part of the referee team, part of the process. Then when you ask them to help identify the guilty player you should get their help. If they do not assist then ask the coach. And if you do not get a straight answer from anyone..... then you have to make the decision on who to send off.

DOGSO Review

In order for a foul to qualify as denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity the following four elements (the Four Ds) must be present:

- **Number of Defenders** – not counting the player committing the foul , there is at **MOST one** defender between the foul and the goal. The other defender is generally the goalkeeper. The keeper committing a foul can be sent off for this offense as well.
- **Distance to the Ball** – the attacker must be close enough to the ball to continue playing it at the time of the foul.
- **Distance to the Goal** – the attacker must be close enough to the goal to have a legitimate chance to score. Being in or near the opponent's penalty area is more likely to be an obvious goal-scoring opportunity than the attacker being in his team's defensive half of the field.
- **Direction** - the attacker must be moving towards the opponent's goal at the time of the foul, not toward a corner flag or away from the goal.