

Concussion Responsibility: if you see any symptoms of a concussion from a player who has gone down during play, you are obligated to remove that player from the game. It is the coach's or school's responsibility to ensure that concussion protocol is followed and that player is examined by a medical professional (trainer, EMT, etc...) It is NOT the game official's responsibility to ensure that protocol was followed. It is NOT the game official's responsibility to examine the injured player. Under no circumstances do you recommend or try to move the injured player. If that player re-appears later at the mid-field ready to re-enter the game you may admit them as any other player. As this individual re-engages in the game, and you note anything about this player that is consistent with concussion symptoms, it is recommended that you stop the game and discuss with the coach. Rule 3.3.2.b.2 gives you the authority to do this. Rule 3.3.2.b.3 Requires the sideline protocol by "appropriate health care professional." We hope that a coach would not fail to follow the sideline protocol but if you have serious doubt that proper care was rendered then you as the official can keep this player off the field. Rule 5.3.2.g allows you to do this. Remember, safety is the number one concern for the kids involved in the game.

Please note: this recommendation came from the head interpreter for the state.

Ball Holders:

While the NFHS soccer rule book says "the home team shall provide ball holders" we all know that sometimes a team does not have the volunteers or extra players to be able fulfill this requirement. While it is within our authority as officials to NOT have a game go off without ball holders it NOT recommended that we try to strictly enforce that rule. Why? It is not a safety issue, which is our number one reason for being there at the game. Our service to the kids is to provide a safe 80 minutes of competitive sport after school. The answer is yes one can, but the strong advice is to play the game, reporting the incident via a game report or email to an assignor.

That said, if ball holders cannot be provided the home coach should be making every effort to provide numerous game balls around the field and should have his players shag any balls that end up in the woods, etc... It is in instances like lost balls where officials have the discretion to stop the game clock, regardless of which team is leading. Any refusal by the home coach to make these efforts should be reported to the assignors.

Field or Equipment Issues:

If you encounter issues at certain venues regarding field conditions, equipment, etc... (ball holders is an example) please communicate these to your assignor via email. Game reports on Arbiter are not always looked at so use email. These issues should only be important ones concerning safety and/or game management.

Goal Keepers:

MUST have a number on their jersey. MUST be wearing socks that are a different (contrasting) color than their opponent's field players.

JV Players on Varsity Teams:

If a player participates in any part of a JV game, he/she may also participate in the varsity game as well. No limits on time played in either JV or varsity games.