

Sorry for the delay in getting you this information. Regarding the conversation at our last meeting about the appropriate clock re-start after stoppages of play I apologize for confusing the correct interpretation. For those of you who were not present, the conversation centered around when the clock on the field should be re-started after a stoppage of play when the game clock has been stopped. In all instances, the clock shall be re-started when the ball is properly put into play. (Rule 7, Sect. 4, Art. 2)

In the various re-starts we discussed it is important to know that the clock re-starts when the ball is in play and not when the whistle is blown to allow the re-start to begin. For instance:

Free Kick - when the ball has been moved in any direction. (if taken by the defending team within its own penalty area the ball is NOT in play until it is beyond the penalty area)

Goal Kick - when the ball has been moved and has left the penalty area.

Corner Kick - when the ball has been kicked and moved.

Throw-in: when the ball has left the hands of the thrower and any part of it breaks the plane of the touchline.

Penalty kick - when the ball has been moved forward.

The discussion continued as we looked at a situation where a penalty kick was awarded with 3-4 seconds left in the game. Based on the clarification above, the game clock should not be started until the ball is in play (when it has been moved forward by the kicker). This means there are still 3-4 seconds for a rebound from the keeper or off of the goal to be played again. If the ball is legally replayed from a rebound and it crosses the goal line between the goal posts before time expires then the goal is good. If it doesn't, the goal is nullified. With 3-4 seconds left for a PK it is probably a good idea to have both officials in close proximity to the goal (there is very little chance of a quick counterattack back toward the trail official's goal). Better to be in a position help rule on the PK.

Another situation to consider is if a foul occurred inside the penalty area just before time expired and the official blew his whistle as time was expiring. When a foul occurs during time IN, that does not mean when the whistle blows for the foul, that means when the foul occurred. Time can be extended for the taking of a penalty kick (Rule 7, Art. 5, Exception). If time runs out during the PK, it is treated as if it were a shot for the penalty point during a tie-breaker. That means there is no continuing play on the ball - shooter takes shot, keeper makes his/her play on the ball - nothing more. In a situation like this (and in the tie-breaker penalty shots) the ball is in play until its momentum is spent, it goes out of bounds, or it crosses the goal line for a score.

MIAA Tournament - Red Card Disqualification of a Coach

The other question asked at the meeting is whether a tournament game is terminated if a coach is red-carded during the contest. The answer is yes. As the rule is written right now, when ANY coach (head or assistant) is red-carded the game is over and that team forfeits. Just write it up as to time, period, score, WHY and then depart the field. Do not start a discussion about the rule and the forfeit, its merits, etc... just leave

the field. As we mentioned at the meeting, there is a movement to change this rule but it is at least a year away to being looked at. Let's hope we all use our officiating experience and skills to identify any situations that might result in a coach being red-carded and defuse them ahead of time. Stop the game and speak to the coach if you have to. The game is for and about the kids - an overzealous coach should not be the reason for not allowing a competition to be completed.

Thanks for your time and good luck to those of you who are assigned to a tournament game. Get out and support your fellow officials during the tournament and we'll see everyone at the banquet on the 19th.

Bert
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