

Greetings,

Today's message deals with referee professionalism.

Never forget that you only have only one opportunity to make a first impression with coaches, players, and fans. How can we do that?

- Wear the appropriate uniform. The minimum kit at the high school level is: black shoes, the three-striped knee-high socks, black uniform shorts, and, at a minimum, the yellow and green USSF shirts (both sleeve lengths). Ideally, you have all five colors in both sleeve lengths.
- Please plan to arrive not less than 30 minutes prior to your match. If you must be late, call the other members of the crew and let them know.
- The Center Referee should lead a complete pre-game discussion to review the duties of all officials - even if you have worked together before. It is critical that all officials participate in this meeting.
 - Discuss the division of responsibilities, teamwork, and use of whistles
 - Discuss the importance of frequent and critical time eye-contact and/or any supplemental signals
 - Discuss positioning and responsibilities: start of match, free kicks, offside, corner kicks, goal kick, penalty kick, throw-in, & out of touch
 - Discuss the Side Referees' positioning beyond midfield
 - Identify how you will manage substitutions
 - Discuss roles/actions for critical times such:
 - as when a goal is scored,
 - if there is an injury (remember if you stop the clock for an injury the player must be substituted),
 - if there is an altercation, and
 - who will do the restarts
 - Clarify how you will issue verbal warnings, yellow cards, and send offs
- The Center Referee should lead a pre-game meeting with both head coaches, the site coordinator, the ball runners, scorekeeper, and the timer.
- Always address coaches, players, and spectators respectfully.
- Know the NFHS Rule Book and the CHSAA modifications. For example, the Mercy Rule now applies to all soccer matches at all levels. And, at the varsity level, if a regular season match is tied at the end of regulation, teams will play two ten-minute golden goal overtime periods. The match ends in a tie if it is still tied after the entire overtime.

Thanks for taking the time to read this message. And, please feel free to contact me (william.gessner@hotmail.com) if I put something in the message that you disagree with.

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Have a great season!

Bill

William Gessner

President

Colorado High School Soccer Officials