

Greetings,

This is the one of several messages that I will send you this season. Please feel free to contact me if I put something in the message that you disagree with.

Here are some mid-season observations to help you with your high school experience.

1. Handshake line - Referees should not stand around waiting for teams to come and shake hands. When the game ends, the referees should leave the field immediately.
2. Hands in the back - Some referees seem to think that a hand positioned on the back is a foul. If there's no push, there's no foul.
3. Offside:
 - a. Remember, the side referee's primary responsibility is getting the offside call right. We have seen too many SRs watching play and falling out of alignment with the second-to-last defender.
 - b. If the ball is played back by a defender, the center can help the side referee by calling out "defender" so the SR knows that the defender has attempted to play the ball and any offside is negated. (You need to discuss this in your pre-game.)
 - c. Avoid collisions with the goalkeeper by whistling offside earlier in the play when a collision is possible.

Playoff voting is coming. Please take time to vote for the ten best officials that you know. I recommend making a list – in order – and then filling out the ballot as the survey monkey format is not user friendly.

After playoff voting will come playoff assignments. Please continually update your availability throughout the playoff season (May 8-23).

FOOT STOMP! Communication – with your crew, with the players, and with the coaches – will make your job easier. Please go to the website (<http://hssso-colorado.org/>) and refer to some of my previous notes about the value of pre-game meetings (all summarized in the Playoff Advice note.)

Have a good season!

Bill

William Gessner
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Colorado High School Soccer Officials