

September 29, 2018

Greetings,

The Playoffs are coming! The Playoffs are coming! The playoff dates are: October 24, 25, 27, 30, & 31; November 3, 7, 9, & 10. We count on everyone to keep their availability current as we select referees for the playoff assignments. Please take time to update Arbiter as soon as you are aware of any potential work, travel, or family conflicts.

As you know, CHSAA released a lightning and severe weather policy ([CHSAA Sports Medicine | CHSAANow.com](#)) on September 7th. The policy requires clearing the field of play when lightning approaches within ten miles, with the objective to have the field cleared by the time the lightning approaches within eight miles. This distance can be measured by a weather app (such as WeatherBug), when cloud-to-ground lightning is observed, or when thunder is heard, whichever occurs first. The old "30-second" policy which resulted in the field not being cleared until lightning was within six miles is outdated and no longer valid.

Remember, the match may not be resumed until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike within 10 miles, the last lightning observed, or the last thunder heard. Several weather apps now clear lightning from their map when the app resets, which may result in lightning which occurred within the last 30 minutes not to appear, so referees should start (and restart as required) a 30-minute timer on their watch every time a qualifying lightning strike (i.e. one within ten miles) occurs in case the app resets.

Head referees are responsible for the safety of participants and the officiating crew, and for determining when to suspend and restart the match (in consultation with the coaches home athletic director).

We recently had a situation where an official did not caution a coach who was continually and loudly dissenting the crew's decisions. This led to ongoing challenges for the crew. I am in favor of any game management techniques that you may choose to use in lieu of cautioning players or coaches. However, when game management technique fails, and the behavior warrants the use of the caution (or send off), the referee should not hesitate to use cards. In fact, failing to take that step makes officiating the next match more difficult.

Finally (and in concert with the above), I want to reiterate the concept that it is important to referee a match dispassionately. We must enforce the rules/laws of the game without letting the actions or words from players, coaches, or fans get to us. When we allow our emotions to surface it detracts from our decisions.

Have a great season!

Thanks,

Bill

William Gessner

President

Colorado High School Soccer Officials