

February 25, 2019

Here is the content of a message about guidance sent to all public high school DSA/AD by the CSOA Commissioner.

**VHSL mandated procedures.** This aligns everyone with the guidance put out by VHSL at the mandatory presentations. The schools were required to have at least one coach attend representing each gender. So there should not be any confusion about VHSL policy.

**First – Post-Game Sportsmanship Handshake.** VHSL has directed that the referees will NO LONGER participate in the post-game handshake with the teams and coaches. Note: This change breaks the time-honored post game handshake between the team/coaches/players. This change will cause some heartburn with the coaches and referees, but this has been mandated by VHSL based on an Executive Committee Decision.

**Second – Officials' jurisdiction will end at the final Whistle.** Previously, the officials' jurisdiction ended when the officials left the venue, now it ends at the end of the game. This means any post-game issues will have to be handled by the School administration and VHSL. Please note in the game report any unsporting issues directed at the officiating team, so the commissioner can address them with the schools.

**Third – Coaches First Yellow Card in Match.** Based on a recommendation from the new coaches committee, the first yellow card received by a coach will be a private matter between the coach and the referee. The coach will be taken aside by the referee and given the yellow card in a discreet manner (NOT DISPLAYED OVERHEAD). If the coach receives a second yellow card or a red card, it will be publicly displayed, for everyone to see. Note: we may have some growing pains with this initially, but hopefully this will work itself out quickly. Coaches should have NO doubt that they have received an initial yellow card.

**Fourth – Official Time.** VHSL has mandated that the last two minutes of each half will be kept on the field by the referee. (This means the scoreboard clock will need to be turned off at the 2 minute mark.)

### **Administrative Procedures**

**First – Uniforms.** Home dark jerseys and dark socks; away white jerseys and white socks. Shorts can be any color.

**Second – Undergarments worn under jerseys and shorts.** Undergarments if worn under shirts and shorts must be the same color for every one of the players. They can either be light or dark and can be worn both home and away. This allows you to only have to purchase one set.

**Third – Team Benches.** NFHS recommends benches on same side of field. If benches are on opposite sides, then they must be on a diagonal and not directly opposite one another. Also, NFHS recommends that the benches be 10 feet from the touchline to prevent injuries to players and give the Assistant Referees sufficient room to do their job without interference from players or coaches.

**Fourth – Team Areas.** NFHS now requires the team areas to be marked to remind coaches and players where they should remain during the game. This is basically a 20-yard area in front of the bench. If you choose not to mark the area, then please use cones to delineate the area.

**Fifth – Lightning.** The referee crew should check with the game administrator prior to the start of the game to determine any potential weather issues and if someone has a lightning monitor at the game site. We will need your assistance in this matter. If the game must be stopped for lightning/thunder, the 30-minute rule will be in effect. If it appears that the weather delay will be substantial, then we ask that the game administrator, coaches, and referee crew sort out the way ahead. Remember a completed half constitutes a completed game regardless of score. Comment? We would appreciate your assistance in this matter, especially with monitoring incoming storms. Trainers may have a weather APP on their phones.

**Sixth – Eight Goal Rule.** This rule will be in effect for all regular season, district, and conference tournament varsity games and all JV games except for the Patriot District in Fairfax County. This means after the 60th minute in a varsity game and the 45th minute in a 60-minute JV game, the eight-goal rule will be applied. In Fairfax, it will be after the 52nd minute in a 70-minute JV game. Patriot District games will be played until normal time expires.

(Per February 27 message from CSOA Assignor – Here are the schools in the Patriot District: Fairfax, Lake Braddock, Robinson, South County, West Springfield and Woodson. All home games at those six venues will not use the [eight goal] rule).