



**Iowa Referee Committee (IRC)**  
High School Liaison



High School Referees,

Good Morning everyone! We have all completed our first weeks matches. I hope you all have been able to enjoy the great weather we have been lucky to have for April. We know in Iowa it can change in an instant. As promised, I am emailing this week's "Week in Review" information. I would have to say the first round of games went fairly smooth, lots of great comments from coaches came in. We do have some areas that we do need to discuss though.

A couple of clarifications to some items -

1. Game Management - This is something we can't do for you. You as the referee crew are the only ones who have this capability. We are seeing some situations that could have been handled differently and the outcome would have been more favorable for ALL the players on the field. Our job is to manage the game, not for us to be noticed on the field. We want all 22 players to stay on the field if at all possible but if an action requires discipline use your tools accordingly. You have your whistle, your voice, and cards. We should as high school soccer officials keep in our minds: "Spirt of the game vs. laws of the game". This doesn't mean to allow a player to dissent you or your crew. It means address it, have a conversation with the player (if you see fit), and approach them with "you treat us with respect just like we treat you with respect".

2. Crews - Get to know your crew you are working with. We are a unique group as we don't usually work with the same persons each night. Please take time to do a pre-game. Recently, a tri-fold pre-game flyer was emailed out to everyone in the state. Please use this great article to reference and help you with a pre-game. When working with a new crew you all need to be on the same page or things can go south real quick. Take time and do the pre-game. We should be allowing 5-10 minutes for this. Arrive to these locations 30 mins ahead of schedule. It shows you are taking your job seriously and that you are ready for the game. The pre-game can be found at the link below. Also, if you have a question about what you saw as an official, talk about it with each other. You are a team, so demonstrate this. Actions go a long way! Someone is always watching.

3. Inspect the fields - Last night I personally worked a game and we noticed the goals weren't anchored. This is an immediate red flag. We went to the home team coach and asked for this to be taken care of. His response was that this was like it is for our other games. Referees, this is unacceptable and should have been caught on day one. All goals MUST be anchored and a game cannot start until they are. They can be sandbagged, staked, etc. Please don't open yourself up for a magnitude of other issues for a simple 2 min check. This should be part of your pre-game. Walk the field/inspect and do your pre-game.

Most of these items that are coming up are easily addressed. Please take the time as a crew and do your best as a crew. With this said, we had A LOT of great compliments. Honestly, probably the most I have heard. Especially with it being just the first 2 weeks. Great job! Here are few comments:

“Very well called game”

“Very impressed with this crew. Best one I’d seen in years.”

“These were good officials. Nice job”

“This was the best officiating crew I've seen in the last couple of years. They communicated well and kept control of the game.”

Let’s keep up the great work!

Reminder: You have access to many important documents that we use as officials. These are all located in the Box folder by going to <http://www.sdi-ia.com/nfhs.html>. They are also accessible from the <http://www.sdi-ia.com> home page halfway down under Spring High School Soccer. The newest item that was added was the rules meeting in a PDF form (with no commentary). These are great quick reference points for you to use.

Have a great week ahead. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns!

Regards,

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