



NISOA 2007 PRESEASON GUIDE

Lodging Protests

Objections Must Occur Before Referees Sign the Box Score

Protests can't just happen any time or any way. The NCAA Soccer Rules Committee set a limit on when and where protests can occur and what decisions can be protested. That and other rule changes were accepted by the NCAA Soccer Rules Committee at its January meeting and subsequently approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP). One change recommended by the committee but not approved by the PROP was the mandatory use of an alternate official (6-2).

Protests (10-9). A game may be protested, provided it is a protest alleging misapplication of a rule of conduct (e.g., a referee requiring teams to continue playing after a goal has been scored in any overtime period). The coach lodging the protest shall do so before the officials sign the official scoresheet and leave the game site. Protests shall not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of the referee's

(see Protests p. 12)

Drop Ball After Temporary Suspension

In case of a temporary suspension of play due to an injury or any other cause, there shall be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was located when play was suspended, provided the ball was not in the goal area (9-3b).

Play 1: The ball bursts as soon as A9 kicks it toward a teammate. **Ruling 1:** Since there is no specified restart for that

unusual occurrence, the restart would be a drop ball from where A9 was standing when A9 kicked the ball.

Play 2: B3, defending to keep the ball out of his own goal, bumps his head on the upright and is injured. The referee immediately stops play and calls for a trainer.

Ruling 2: Since there was neither a foul nor

(see Drop Ball p. 13)



DALE GARREY

Officials (from left) Bob Lemmon, Des Moines, Wash.; Danny Eng, Bellevue, Wash.; and Romes Curtiss, Seattle, sign the box score form. This season, if a team is going to file a protest, it must do so before the officials sign the form.

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Message From the Executive Director

By Raymond Bernabei



COURTESY OF NISOA

The National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (NISOA) was formed in 1964 with 164 members. Today, there are 6,000 members who belong to 123 local chapters. It continues to be a great pleasure to work with so many professionals who give of their time and talent voluntarily to the membership.

Due to their effort, it becomes possible for NISOA to provide many services annually. Besides publications, such as the newsletter, Chapter Contact Memos, NISOA History, NISOA Chronology, the *NISOA Official's Manual*, the *Alternate Official's Manual*, the *Three-Whistle System Manual* and this *NISOA Preseason Guide*, printed in cooperation with the NASO, various programs are presented to improve the quality of college officiating.

Achievements have been made in the production and distribution of the NCAA Rules Changes DVDs to each NCAA D-1, D-II and D-III mens' and womens' soccer coaches, as well as all NISOA Chapter Clinicians and National Clinicians. DVDs are also produced for the NFHS rules changes.

Various training programs continue to be conducted by NISOA volunteer staff:

- The National Referee Training and Certification Programs held at four sites.

- Local Assessor Clinics held in various states.
- Regional Clinics held at various sites.
- NISOA staff members presenting clinic topics at various National Soccer Coaches Association of America Coaching Academy Clinics.

- NISOA Assignor Workshop.
- Referee Training and Certification Camp annually at Elizabethtown College, Pa.
- National Clinician Certification Clinic at Elizabethtown College, Pa.
- International Exchange program with Ghana, Africa and Italy.

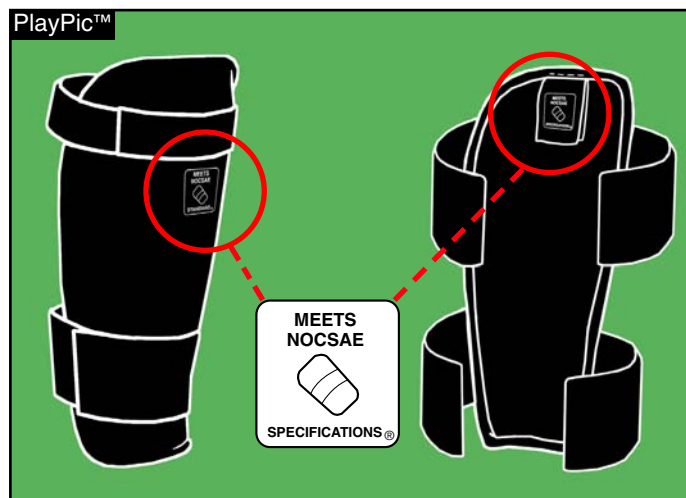
NISOA has a non-profit 501 (c) (3) approval by the Internal Revenue Service, which permits individuals to make tax-deductible donations to the NISOA Foundation Fund. That fund supports the scholarship-grant program for recruiting, training and certifying potential women and minorities as college soccer officials.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the NASO staff in the production and distribution of the annual *NISOA Preseason Guide*. □

Players Should Wear Approved Shinguards

Players shall wear shinguards under the stockings in the manner intended, without exception (4-1b). The shinguards shall be professionally manufactured, age and size appropriate, and not altered to decrease protection. The NCAA requires players to wear shinguards that meet the standards established by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE). The change recognizes that the effective date for the required shinguard specification has been announced by NOCSAE as July 1, 2007; however, approved shinguards may not be available regionally.

Nonetheless, the effect of the change is to notify member schools that they are



expected to be in compliance with NOCSAE standards. For that matter, players should already be wearing age and size appropriate shinguards.

Play 1: Teams A and B, both in the same conference, are having great difficulty getting enough NOCSAE-

stamped shinguards. For the game, both head coaches approach the referee with a

letter from the conference explaining the shortage.
Ruling 1: If it is a widely known problem in some geographic areas, a conference may let the referees know of the shortage. Play the game and include a note on the box score form but, in any event, the shinguards must meet all other requirements.

Play 2: The referee is inspecting players' equipment prior to the contest. A7 appears to have shinguards suitable for a much smaller player. The referee asks the team A coach
(see *Shinguards* p. 4)

Analyze Opposing Contact

The play seems pretty innocent so far — in photo A, a keeper goes into open space to retrieve a ball. But the antagonist is not far behind, as number 13 comes into view in photo B. Clearly the keeper is there first, has possession and while she has raised her left knee slightly, there is no foul (leg is not locked, foot is not going into 13's mid-section, etc.).

Photo C offers a clue you didn't have before. The long strides of the players in the

background show that 13 had come in at a sprint. Now, due to momentum, as the keeper's upper body strikes the ground, she loses control of the ball, and number 13's left leg gets between the keeper's splayed legs. Number 13's left foot did not touch the ball to knock it out of the keeper's hands — the keeper lost possession.

Photo D offers the most meat for your analysis. The keeper, knowing she lost possession has moved two body parts to try to prevent

the goal. The keeper has rolled her hips to bring her right leg into number 13's right leg — see how 13's shins are parallel to the ground! Also, with the ball on the ground, what possible reason would the keeper have to place her right hand on number 13's thigh?

Do you whistle right now? Only if you want to embarrass yourself by having to disallow a goal because you blew a whistle before the ball entered the net. There is a chance, a small chance, number 13 will

keep her balance and tap the ball into an open net. More likely, both number 13 and the keeper will scramble to see who can recover more quickly. There are no other players in the photo, so give those two time to work it out. If number 13 doesn't get the goal, you can still whistle the penalty kick — that whole sequence is well within the two-to-three seconds allowed for you to whistle an infraction as you wait for advantage to materialize. □



PHOTOS BY DALE GARNER

Lightning Safety Policy: Decide When to Quit for the Day

If available, electronic detection devices should be used as additional tools to determine the severity of the weather. However, such devices should not be used as the sole source when considering terminating play.

With reference to game interruptions and the length of waiting time beyond which the game can't be started and/or restarted: No contest may be started or resumed if a restart is later than 180 minutes from the original start of the game (10-11). For example: A game that began at 2 p.m., if interrupted, shall be suspended for that day if it cannot be resumed before 5 p.m.

Play 1: The referee and one assistant see lightning



flashes in the sky. The referee blows the whistle to stop play and tells everyone

to seek cover. The home coach says that the detector doesn't indicate any storms

in the area. **Ruling 1:** Play is suspended and everyone should take cover. While the detection device is a handy added tool, personal observations take priority. The referee is the sole judge as to when or if the game should be suspended.

Play 2: The game kicked off at 5 p.m. There were several lightning delays and by 7:15, only 30 minutes had been played. The referee tells both teams to warm up as the storm is past and they will restart in five minutes. The visiting coach says that is incorrect, since the game cannot be completed by 8 p.m. **Ruling 2:** The game does not have to be completed by 8 p.m.; it must only be resumed by 8 p.m. to be allowed to continue that day. □

Ejections: Reasons for Red Card Expanded

An ejection should occur if a player engages in hostile or abusive language or harassment that refers to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin or engages in other abusive, threatening or obscene language, behavior or conduct (12-15g).

That is not a substantive

change. Players who referred to someone with a sexually abusive term or a racially derogatory term could have been ejected in the past. However, last year's language of "uses abusive, threatening or obscene language," is not as comprehensive as the new language. □

Quick Tip

Keep the pregame meeting with captains short. Don't conduct a rules clinic or chat about the season. Introduce yourself and the assistant referees, let them shake hands, make one or two quick points (such as, "There will be extra time if we are tied."). Remember, NCAA has some mandatory requirements. Take 10 seconds to flip the coin and make decisions, wish everyone good luck and be on your way.

Scorekeeper Errors

Once the scoresheet is signed and released for publication, coaches, players and bench personnel bear the burden of the infractions (6-4).

Play: During the contest, A8 is cautioned. The scorekeeper incorrectly writes that A7 was carded. No one catches the error

until the next day when they see in the local newspaper that "Smith" was cautioned. **Ruling:** That error cannot be corrected. Once all three referees sign the box score form and depart the game site, that error cannot be corrected. □

Shinguards

continued from p. 1

to look at A7's equipment. All discover that A7's plastic stiffeners have been cut in half. **Ruling 2:** A7 may not participate in that contest wearing those shinguards.

Play 3: The referee is inspecting players' equipment prior to the

contest. A6 appears to have shinguards suitable for a much-smaller player. The referee asks the team A coach to look at A6's equipment. All discover that A6 is the only player on the field without NOCSAE-stamped shinguards. **Ruling 3:** A6 may not participate in that contest wearing those shinguards. □

Review Last Year's Rule Changes

In addition to studying the new rules for 2007, officials should take a look at the changes made for the 2006 season.

Goals (1-9). The goallines must be the same width as the goal posts and crossbars.

Lighting (1-17). The contact information for the Illuminating Engineering Society of America and the suggested lighting specifications from the NCAA Broadcasting Manual will be incorporated into the rules book.

Re-entry rights (3-5). An approved ruling clarifies that if a goalkeeper becomes a field player and is substituted for as a field player, the field player substitution rules apply.

Clock stoppage in final five minutes (3-6). In the final five minutes of the second period, the clock will only stop for substitutions made by the team in the lead. The clock will not stop for



As a result of a 2006 rule change, goalkeeper sock color must be different than the opposing team's sock color.

either team if the score is tied.

Shinguards (4-1b). Size appropriate shinguards with the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) seal will be required for all players beginning with the 2007 season.

Sock color (4-2b). Goalkeeper socks must be different than the opposing team's socks.

Conduct rules (5-3). The rule will now specify that neither referees, nor institutions, have the authority to alter rules of conduct, including duration of the game, substitutions and overtime procedures.

Scoresheet (6-4). The assistant referees will also be required to sign the scoresheet.

Scorekeeper duties (6-4). The rule will now specify that

it is the responsibility of the scorekeeper to inform a player who is attempting to re-enter a game illegally. Further, the scorekeeper must notify the referee when an illegal substitution has been made.

Goalkeeper injury (7-1b 7). The goalkeeper is eligible to return to the game during the tiebreaker, if physically able.

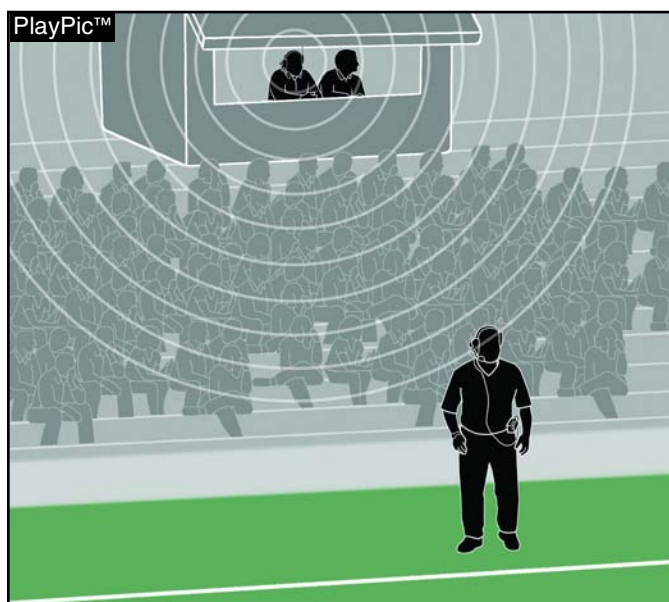
Offside position (11-1). The position of any part of the player's head, body or feet will be the deciding factor and not the player's arms.

Referee assault (12-17). Penalties for contact with a referee will be incorporated for the first time. A first incidence of referee assault will be an ejection with a minimum three-game suspension. A second incident of referee assault or any fighting is suspension for the remainder of the season. □

Limits Set on Coaching and Team Area

A member of the coaching staff who is part of the official traveling party and listed on the game roster is permitted to view the game from the press box or other area, provided a press box or other suitable area is available and there is no communication in any way with other bench personnel in the coaching and team area (1-12c). Exception: Communication and/or contact is permitted during halftime, overtime intervals and/or any time the staff member returns to the coaching and team area.

Play: Team B's coaches



know it would be an infraction if they communicate directly with each other. The assistant coach in the press box sees the trend of A9 coming down the left wing to attack the slow-moving B2. So the assistant coach calls the team B trainer on a cell phone, relaying that message and hangs up. Two minutes later, the alternate official hears the trainer relaying tactical advice to the head coach. **Ruling:** Caution team B's head coach for unsporting behavior the next time the ball is out of play. □

Maintain Bench Control

By Bill Wagner

Did you ever wonder why team areas were mandated by the rules? How many readers were officiating during the time before team areas became part of the rules? Those readers may recall what life was like for officials during that time. Assistant referees routinely had to run around or through some member of the coaching staff who was positioned along the touchline. If not the coaching staff, then a substitute or trainer would be so engrossed in the game that assistant referees were considered a hindrance rather than an integral part of the officiating team. Most of the time, a few words from an assistant referee successfully moved the players back toward the team bench momentarily. It would usually last until the next breakaway run from the halfway line. Once again the assistant referees would have to thread their way through a gauntlet to keep up with the attack.

Not only did assistants have to contend with bench personnel encroaching toward the touchline but they also had to contend with the staff commentary regarding the referee's decisions. Many asked, "What was that call?" or "Would you have called it that way?" or "I know you could have gotten that call right." That behavior may have been innocent enough, but quite often, it was a not-so-subtle attempt to distract the assistant referees from their duties as part of the



Assistant referees, such as Julian Rees, Seattle, must help to control the benches and sidelines.

officiating team. In reality, gamesmanship by the coach or bench personnel is what is occurring.

Officials' training at one point tried to recognize that distractions could be encountered when performing their duties on the touchline nearest the team benches. Officials were instructed to maintain their position but to avoid collisions. They were instructed to be respectful of coaches but avoid being caught up in conversations with bench personnel. There were also times when additional help might be needed to maintain an element of control over bench personnel. Bench personnel actions and bench control were frequently a topic for officials' pregame conferences. Discussions during the halftime interval might also include bench personnel behavior. More than once, a game was terminated because bench personnel became out of control and chaos erupted on the field.

Written into rules

The NCAA incorporated changes into the rules in order to improve the game. One change recently addressed how to manage the behavior of bench personnel. Rule 1-12a says, "There shall be a coaching and team area." The dimensions of the coaching and team areas are then prescribed in 1-12a and 1-12b. The purpose of defining the coaching or team area is to attempt to control the behavior of personnel who are participants but not presently on the field of play.

The NCAA rule requires that coaches, players and bench personnel must remain inside their coaching or team area. An exception is granted to players who are warming up prior to entering the field of play. The rules allow for trainers or medical personnel to leave the team area to attend to an injured player on the field, provided the referee gives permission. The rules seem clear that team personnel who are not

currently participating on the field should remain in the coaching and team area and behave in a responsible manner at all times.

Enforcement

The official ultimately responsible for enforcing the rules is the referee. Unfortunately, the referee is often required to be in locations other than nearby the coaching or team areas. Thus, the rules also provide for assistant referees whose duties include assisting the referee in game control by indicating, among other things, breaches of the rules the referee may not have seen. The rules also permit assigning alternate officials at the discretion of either the conference or an institution. Among the duties assigned to the alternate official is assisting in controlling bench personnel. The rules place responsibility for game control on the officials and set forth that an aspect of game control can include bench personnel who are subject to the referee's jurisdiction. Based on officials' recommended position, much responsibility for bench control falls to the assistant assigned to the team-area side or to the alternate official, who is generally positioned between the two coaching or team areas.

Game control requires considerable judgment and, quite often, great people skills. Coaches have a vested interest in what is happening on the field — they often get caught up in the heat of the moment.

(see *Bench Control* p. 14)

Language – Why is It an Issue?

By John Van de Vaarst

The requirement to caution a player for the use of incidental language and to eject a player for using foul language has been in the *NCAA Soccer Rules and Interpretations* for several years. This is a mandatory requirement in the rules. If that is the case, why is the enforcement of the rule still an issue? Some referees, for whatever reason, are ignoring language and not enforcing the mandatory rules, or are treating it as a discretionary action. After discussion with several referees and observing many games, the following are some conclusions as to why the language rules are ignored and not being enforced as the rules direct.

Controversy

First, some referees are afraid of controversy. The coach may react in a negative fashion. The fans may become more hostile or players may react in a manner that will make the game more difficult. While those reasons seem logical, they do not support the decision to ignore the rules.

Coaches

The second reason a referee may not issue a caution or ejection for language is the coach's reaction. The fear of hearing, "You are never coming back here again" looms over some referees' heads and they do not want to deal with language. The concern for not getting the best assignments looms over some officials' heads. Ego takes over and the referees do not enforce the rules. Coaches use comments such as the above to bait referees. This is nothing more than gamesmanship. Do not allow yourself to fall into that trap. Enforce the rules and ignore the coaches' comments.

Sit out games

Another reason that referees may ignore the rule is that cautions accumulate — and the player may be suspended for letting a word out in the heat of the moment. That should not be the referee's concern. The rule specifies that the caution is given for incidental use of unacceptable language. If it is said, it should be cautioned.

Also, if the language is

such that it deserves an ejection, the referee should not ignore the rule simply because the player will be suspended for a game. The referee's job is to enforce the rules, not to ignore them for any reason.

Members of NISOA are professionals. Since that is the case, one must assume that they have a vocabulary and have a grasp of the language. Also, one must assume that they are thoroughly familiar with the *NCAA Soccer Rules and Interpretations* and know that the language rules must be enforced. Therefore, if the individual knows what words or gestures are unacceptable and knows the penalty for using those words or gestures, then there should be no issue. The caution or ejection is administered.

They want it

School presidents and athletic directors want the rule enforced. That is why it was placed in the rules. The game is an extension of the university and the players represent the university. School administrators do not want negative language

as part of the activity. In addition, more and more fans are attending games. Several schools are now charging admission to attend the game. The fans are not interested in hearing unacceptable language or gestures. They are there to enjoy the game. The referee is responsible for ensuring that happens.

Referees, do not have the choice to pick and choose what rules to enforce. That is a matter of referee ethics. The language rules were placed in the *NCAA Soccer Rules and Interpretations* for a reason. It is the NISOA referee's responsibility to enforce the rules, even if it is not a popular decision. Failure to do so only makes it harder for the next official to enforce the rule at one of the competing schools' next game.

If referees stand united and deal with language and gestures uniformly, players and coaches will clearly know what is expected and behave in a manner that is expected by the school administrators.

John Van de Vaarst is the NISOA National Director of Instruction. □

Deal With Language

During several spring regional clinics, the topic of incidental language was discussed. In several instances, the participants felt they could ignore the language issue and avoid controversy. The NCAA rule does not provide an option. Incidental language

must be dealt with. It is a mandatory caution.

NISOA members are required to enforce the rules established by the NCAA. As a group, all officials must unite and deal with that rule. If it is done consistently, there will be no future problems. □

Quick Tip

Even if it is your first game after registering as a NISOA referee, **protect your assistants from rude and degrading comments by players, coaches and spectators.** If you see someone yelling at them, take action. If you are in the center of the field and can hear someone chastising them for a decision made or not made, at least make eye contact with them to see if the comments are upsetting them. Referees who do not feel protected will find reasons to not come back in the weeks ahead.



Understand Team Tactics

By John Van de Vaarst

Most officials who referee at the collegiate level know such aspects of the game as rules, mechanics and procedures, how to apply advantage, offside versus offside position and more. However, not all officials understand those aspects of the college game that involve team tactics. Those referees who understand the importance of team tactics and their effects on game control tend to perform better. They are usually more in demand by the competing schools.

What is 'understanding the game'?

In a sense, it means being alert to occurrences to which the referee needs to adjust. There are many such intangibles that a good referee needs to recognize in a game but may well miss. This article covers four examples. Those four are not all-inclusive, but should give referees an idea of what it takes to improve game performance.

1. Ball over the top

The first example is a team

that likes to play the long ball over the top of the defense. Teams that play that style require the referee to anticipate play and be in a position that is further down field than normal, in order to be closer to play when the long ball occurs. Continual jogging along the diagonal helps the referee get to the right position sooner — rather than waiting for the ball to be launched and then trying to sprint to catch up with play.

That type of play is also more difficult for the assistants. Assistants must be constantly prepared for the ball to be struck and be ready to judge offside. Good front-running attackers will be weaving in and out (of the forward line) in anticipation of the strike, so they are on the move toward goal at the moment the ball is played long. Assistants caught ball-watching could miss a critical offside call when that team tactic is used.

2. Into open space

The second example is a team that plays the ball into open space. A less-experienced referee may see a ball going into open space

and begin to relax. Suddenly, a teammate of the passer makes an overlapping run from the back and is headed to goal with the ball in possession at full stride. The referee is caught out of position and either has to sprint to try to catch up or may miss a critical call because of poor positioning. Keeping alert to how teams play a ball to open space allows the referee to take a better position whenever that play is anticipated.

That is the same for the assistant. A ball played to open space is no reason to relax. It's quite the opposite at competitive levels of play. The assistant must continue to stay in position with the second-to-last defender or follow the ball played forward. Failure to do that could result in missing a close offside decision.

3. Trash talk

Third, as a game becomes more competitive, more and more players may begin to "trash talk" at and with opponents. Referees need to be ready for that possibility, observe behavior and deal with the issue before it becomes a problem. Also, assistants must watch off-the-ball trash talk that could lead to confrontations or retaliation. That misbehavior must be dealt with quickly or it will lead to more serious behavior-control problems.

4. Bench behavior

A fourth example is the behavior of bench personnel as a tactic to influence the outcome through gamesmanship. Coaches, assistant coaches and bench players may make

comments intended to take the referee "out of the game" or get a call in their favor later in the game. As the referee, you must be able to handle those attempts at gamesmanship before they negatively impact the game or the other team's performance by disrupting the flow of the game. If that occurs, deal with the situation quickly and professionally! That could mean a verbal discussion with the coach or other participant involved, or a caution, if you deem one appropriate.

Gamesmanship by coaches and other bench personnel is tough for the assistant assigned to the bench side. The first reaction to gamesmanship should be to focus on the possible effect on the game. If the assistant referee feels that something must be done to calm a coach or other bench personnel, the assistant should try doing so without turning from the field or missing what is transpiring on the field. Some coaches "work" the assistant in hopes of getting a call in their team's favor during a critical moment. Do *not* let that type of gamesmanship negatively impact the game.

Remember, this article is not all-inclusive. It reviews a few examples of common problems when team or player tactics affect game control. We offered a few tips that might help you improve the understanding of your competitive game. *John Van de Vaarst is the NISOA National Director of Instruction.* □

New NISOA Crest for Uniforms

NISOA is mailing out badges approved by the NISOA Executive Council, to be worn on the uniform shirt for the 2007 season. The traditional patch may still be worn on the NISOA warm-up suit and the blue blazer. Chapters may order the new badges in bulk and receive a discount. □



Right Place, Right Time

By Dr. Stanley E. Latta

Throughout the training and development process for college and high school referees, clinicians have emphasized three important foundations to focus upon for success:

1. Know the rules.
2. Know how and when to apply the rules.
3. Be in the proper position to make the call.

While each of those dimensions is critical to the role of being a competent referee, the last issue requires more than just achieving and maintaining the right level of physical fitness.

Flow of the game

Soccer is appealing to many because it is so fluid. There is a flow to any game that the referee must recognize. Understanding that flow and being able to “read the game” is important to help maintain the proper position throughout play. Anticipating *what can* happen and *where* is just as important as being able



A good pregame is critical for NISOA officials, such as Soo-Hui Um, Puyallup, Wash., Daniel Libby, Seattle; and Robert Alvarez, Seattle.

to recognize *what is* happening. Recognizing the style of play and tendencies of each team can be very helpful to determine when and where to be on the field at any given time.

For example, if a team builds their attack from the back via short passes, recognizing the passing lanes is important to track the play without interrupting the flow or disrupting play. Teams that

build an attack or counter by playing long balls up the middle can leave a referee in a difficult position to control play. That can be especially critical in the attacking third.

Thorough pregame

Conducting a thorough pregame with assistant referees so they can assist in those situations is important to good game management. Referees have situations when they are caught in a quick counter or unexpected long pass and need the assistant to not only be in the correct position to call the offside, but also assist in foul recognition and support. Trying to “sell a call” when not in position is

always a challenge. Working together and recognizing the style of play is important for the referee team to effectively manage the game.

Expect

Although not perfect indicators, the make-up of the team might help some positioning decisions. Some teams tend toward short, crisp passes, while others toward long balls and crosses from the wings. Listen to the coach’s comments to pick up a clue. Did you call the referee that had those teams two weeks ago? Did you ask the assignor about trends? Have you visited the team’s web page to know who the high scorer is thus far in the season? If it’s a striker, you’ve got to hustle down on counterattacks. If it’s an attacking midfielder, you’ve got to keep all his or her options open by staying out of the middle.

Soccer is a game of speed, strategy and positioning for both the players and the referees. Understanding the flow of the game, the players’ and teams’ tendencies, proper restart positioning and working together as a team will help the referee be in the right position at the right time. *Stanley Latta, D.Ed., is a NISOA National Clinician from University Park, Pa.* □

Assistant Referees Must Be in Position

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of the game and be ball/game watching instead of focusing on your positioning as an assistant referee. When assigned as an assistant, the NISOA member must be ready to focus for the entire game and stay even with the second-to-last defender at all times

unless the ball is further downfield or the defender is in the attacking half.

Be careful not to get caught watching a great game that has a tremendous amount of excitement. When that occurs, you may be out of position to make a critical call. Focus throughout the game and you will do a great job. □



Quick Tip

If you hear players expressing frustration at your decisions early in the game, **focus on the opponents’ interactions after the ball is away.** You might be missing late hits after the attacker kicks the ball.

Skilled players train to control their bodies. They have the ability to stop, turn, leap and avoid contact — if they wish to. Sometimes they continue their run in the same direction with the intent of making upper-body contact with their opponent. Most referees would correctly judge that to be incidental contact — unless a team seems to do it at every opportunity.

See More Than the Obvious

Behind and over the head. In the collegiate game, defenders are allowed to stand in front of the thrower (as seen in the photo), as long as they do not move in an attempt to interfere with the throw-in. So far, everything is legal, and that's what most referees see.

You should see more. See the two players in the background. The blue player is trying to create space to receive the thrown ball. White number 24 is trying to get her arms over the blue player's arms to restrict movement. Both players will continue to move their arms and "swim" until one of three things happen: the ball is thrown in and one player gains control; one player becomes agitated and "ups the ante" by pushing the opponent; or you, the referee, put a stop to it with a preventive word or two.

Since the ball is out of play, it is either nothing or misconduct. So, have a word, or show a card, but get it to stop. You cannot award a free kick for that contact.



ED PUNNETT

NISOA Auxiliary

By Mary Van de Vaarst and Debbie Wescott

This past year, the NISOA Executive Board approved the formation of the Auxiliary. The initial plan was to provide an opportunity for spouses to be a part of NISOA. That has now been extended to family members and friends.

The Auxiliary was formed, in part, as a memory to the tradition that Rose Bernabei started with the theme of "family first." Rose always made sure that family members felt welcome at various NISOA functions. The Auxiliary provides organized tours and events for family members and friends to attend while the NISOA members are

attending clinics, etc. at the NISOA convention. The staff also assists at the registration booth and performs other functions at the request of the executive director.

To become a member of the Auxiliary, there is a one-time fee of \$50. In return, the member receives an Auxiliary shirt, membership card, rose lapel pin and newsletters. The \$50 fee is placed in the foundation fund and used for scholarships for females attending the Elizabethtown Camp.

Please share this information with your spouse and family members to see if they would like to join. The application can be found on www.NISOA.com. □

Don't Overextend Yourself

There are many issues surrounding professionalism. The point of emphasis only focuses on one area. Do not over extend yourself and accept multiple assignments on any given day. Games can go overtime, traffic can develop and more.

You cannot do justice to any game if you accept multiple assignments at the collegiate level or accept high school or

other games in addition to the college game you are doing. As a NISOA member, you must give 100 percent to the game you are assigned. Working a game(s) before or after the college assignment or accepting multiple college games in one day will only result in doing a game that is not at your top performance level. Before accepting games, review the calendar and make a professional decision. □



Quiz Answers:

- 1 — a, c, e, g (1-7 Penalty; 1-10 Penalty; 1-9; 5-5a, 10-10)
2 — a (3-6)
3 — b (5-5c)

4 — b, f (10-8, 7-2)

5 — a (14-3c)

6 — a (14-3)

7 — b, e (7-1 Approved Ruling, 7-1b 1)

Prevent Violence in the Game

By John Van de Vaarst

Several coaches and players' parents have expressed their concern that violence in the game of collegiate soccer is increasing, especially in the women's game. In order to determine why that is occurring, one must look at some possible causes and then ways to prevent the escalation of violence at college games. There are some potential causes for the increase in violence.

Conference games

Winning conference games is more critical for teams. The winner of a conference or conference championship could mean an automatic bid to the national tournament. In addition, the competitive nature of players gives them the desire to win the conference title, so they can achieve a season goal. Failure to win a conference could also cost a coach their career. "Win at all costs" is becoming the norm in several conferences.

Referees often make at least one decision during a game that they regret.

Allowing advantage on a particular foul that leads to retaliation or just calling a foul without a verbal warning or caution, could lead to a player taking the matter into their own hands. When that occurs, players feel that they must protect themselves and the violence begins to escalate.

Video

Televised games from overseas and other venues

result in college players seeing behavior that is acceptable at that level — behavior that should not be allowed at the collegiate level. That leads to frustration when the player is called for the foul or dealt with for the misconduct. Also, the player who is fouled may want to retaliate for the type of play.

To deal with the above and other problems that may lead to violence, referees need to use the greatest tool they have — people management. If that skill is used properly, many problems can be prevented. Examples of people management include: a quiet word to a player, a gamesmanship type comment to a player to get them to relax (i.e. "Great ball to space"), a verbal warning, etc. When it is time to use that skill, one must be careful not to be over authoritative. That action could ignite a trigger in a player and result in the

problem escalating. Loosing composure and yelling at a player is not the correct behavior of a professional. Being too timid and not showing enough authority causes a game to "go south" and bring about violent situations. Referees must be in charge at all times and know when to express themselves in a manner that will keep control of the game.

Prevention

There are many ways to prevent violence in a game. Set the tone early and let the players know what is unacceptable. By doing that, problems should not occur later in the game. Presence leads to conviction. Being close to the play and in good position reduces the opportunities for fouls being missed and retaliations occurring. Although it is joked about, a referee cannot do the job by using the "They will

come back" theory of officiating.

There are certain fouls that cannot be ignored. The slide tackle when the leg is used to strike the back of the opponent's leg, or the cleats are up, or the other leg is used to deliberately trip the opponent. Those tackles are very dangerous and can end a career. They must be dealt with. Hard charges that are made in a manner to hurt someone must be called immediately. The same holds true for elbows being thrown at opponents on head-ball situations. If a player charges the goalkeeper while in possession of the ball, the referee must be there to deal with that quickly. If not, the goalkeeper's teammates will take action and there will be a bad situation.

Do not lack the courage to deal with retaliation. Even if it means ejecting the star of the team. At that point, the player is not acting like a star. Failure to take action will only lead to more problems throughout the remainder of the game.

Use people-management skills to help with game control. Talking and even joking with players will go a long way to prevent problems from developing.

Coaches, athletic directors and others are concerned that the collegiate game is becoming more violent. As NISOA members, recognize that problem and deal with it throughout the season.

John Van de Vaarst is the NISOA National Director of Instruction. □

Quick Tip

Problems arise when the third player joins a scuffle. A different mentality takes over when the third player arrives. Coaches and teammates want to restore the equality in a situation that is quickly becoming unequal. When the third player rushes in, several of the opponent's teammates want to rush over there to make sure everything is OK. What was two quickly becomes a dozen. While you are capable of handling two players, a dozen shouting players in a tight pack becomes a handful. Inevitably, someone in that pack is going to say something silly, an opponent will take offense and throw a punch. If that happens, deal with it.

But try not to let it happen in the first place. Get there quickly. **Your physical presence is the biggest deterrent to the third player joining in the festivities.** Make some noise. Either with your whistle or your voice, make some noise to let everyone know you don't want that third player involved. Direct him to back away — you'll sort everything out without the player's help.



Test Your Rules Knowledge

For each of the following situation, you are to select the answer or answers that are correct according to NCAA rules. Solutions are on p. 10.

1. The following pairs of statements all concern the field of play. Choose all that are true for NCAA games.

- a. The 11-yard encroachment hash mark is mandatory.
- b. The 11-yard encroachment hash mark is optional.
- c. Goal nets are mandatory.
- d. Goal nets are optional.
- e. Padded goal posts are not allowed.
- f. Padded goal posts are optional.
- g. Regarding field conditions for play to start and to continue, the determination is made by the referee.
- h. Regarding field conditions for play to start and to continue, the determination is made by the school administrators.

2. When does a substitute become a player of record?

- a. When the substitute is beckoned on by the referee during the first 85 minutes of a

game. During the last five minutes, when the referee signals the clock to stop, if the team leading in the score chooses to substitute.

b. When the substitute enters the field, which must be at the halfway line.

3. One of the following statements is true for forfeits or terminations under NCAA rules.

- a. The referee has no power to declare a forfeit but may suspend or terminate a match.
- b. The referee has the power to forfeit if coach will not end a discussion or leave field, or the team refuses to return to field within three minutes; or if an ejected player reenters as a substitute. If a team is not on the field within 15 minutes of game time, it is declared “no contest.” The referee can suspend a game.

4. Which two of the following six statements are true for NCAA soccer games?

- a. A game becomes official if one half has been played. If suspended during the first half, the governing authority determines if it is to be

rescheduled from the beginning or from the point of suspension.

b. A suspended game of less than 70 minutes is declared a “no contest.” If at least 70 minutes have been played, the governing authority may declare it official.

c. If less than full time is played, the match must be replayed in its entirety unless the governing authority states otherwise.

d. Players are entitled to a halftime interval. It must not exceed 15 minutes.

e. Players get 10 minutes for their halftime interval, unless both coaches agree upon a different length.

f. Players get 15 minutes for their halftime interval; 10 minutes or less, if by prior consent of coaches and officials.

5. One of the following statements is true for penalty kicks under NCAA rules.

a. Stutter stepping or faking by the kicker is not permitted; caution the kicker and retake the penalty kick.

b. Stutter stepping or faking by the kicker is permitted; there is no infraction.

6. The player taking a penalty kick infringes (or a teammate encroaches) and the ball does not go into goal. What is the restart?

a. A goal kick, or a corner kick if the keeper taps the ball over the goalline. If the ball rebounds into play, an indirect free kick is given to defenders.

b. An indirect free kick to defending team under all circumstances.

7. Two of the following statements are true for Kicks from Penalty Mark (tiebreaker) under NCAA rules.

a. If one team is playing short, the other team must reduce-to-equate. Each team must have same number of kickers at the start of the kicks.

b. The coach is not permitted on the field.

c. There is to be no player reduction if the other team is playing short.

d. The coach is allowed in the center circle during kicks.

e. The team has the option to reduce or adjust its kicking order to avoid being penalized or placed at a disadvantage.

Quiz answers on p. 10

Protests

continued from p. 1

judgment. The decisions of the referee regarding facts of play are final.

Play 1: Near the end of an exciting 1-1 contest, the referee calls obstruction (12-8) and awards an indirect free kick. The coach of the visiting team thinks the call should have been tripping (12-1), so his team would have gotten a direct free kick. The coach protests the call at the end of the game.

Ruling 1: The referee should carefully explain that is a decision based on the referee’s judgment. If the coach persists and fills out the paperwork, neither the

conference nor the secretary-rules editor will act on the submitted paperwork.

Play 2: Team A plays a rival school on Tuesday and loses on a last-minute goal. Reviewing the film on Wednesday, the coach discovers team B had 12 players on the field when the goal was scored. Immediately, team A’s coach initiates protest paperwork.

Ruling 2: That protest must be lodged before the officials sign the box score form and leave the game site. There is a “statute of limitations” and while an error was made, that error cannot be corrected.

The NCAA secretary-rules editor is the final

decision-maker regarding protests. If a game has a clear winner even if the protest is upheld, the game result shall stand. If a game has to be replayed (that decision is made with the two opposing teams and their conference[s]), it shall be replayed in its entirety. If the protest involves a scorekeeper error (e.g., failure to record an obvious red card ejection), the referee and protesting coach shall make an immediate decision based on all information available at the game site.

Play 3: At the end of the game, while the referees are about to sign the box score form, both coaches and the referee see that the official

score is reversed and only one of two ejections was reported. The visiting coach wants to protest. **Ruling 3:** There is no need to protest. Since everyone is there, the corrections can be made, both coaches and all three officials can agree that the paperwork matches the outcome of the contest and all three officials can then sign the box score form.

New box score form. Referees had a requirement to sign the official box score form at the end of each contest last year (6-4). The form this year will have a second page — the NCAA Soccer Protest Form. That form is available online at www.ncaa.org. □

Are You Ready for 'Alternate' Duties?

By John Van de Vaarst

More and more schools are requesting that an alternate official be assigned to their games. That individual has multiple responsibilities. If a NISOA member is assigned as an alternate official, he or she needs to be prepared to do a professional job. Two primary management duties of the alternate official are administrative management and bench control. Let's take a detailed look at each duty.

Administrative management

Prior to the game, the referee may ask the alternate official to perform a variety of functions. That could include field inspection, obtaining the line-up sheet, conferring with the timer and more. The role of the alternate official is to do whatever is asked in a professional manner.

Once the game commences, the alternate official has responsibility for maintaining a detailed record of the game. This includes tracking substitutions, cautions, ejections and injuries. Use the *NISOA Alternate Official Form*. The record is not to be

maintained on a scrap of paper, yellow card or any other material. If assigned as an alternate official, make sure to take the form, which is available on www.NISOA.com, with you. Prior to the game, review the form and be familiar with it. Decide how substitutions are going to be tracked, especially in the second half, so there are no problems with illegal entries. Develop a system that allows a way to mark the re-entry in a way that is easily recognizable. For example, a circle around the number who re-entered seems to work well.

Tracking cautions to ensure that a player does not receive a second caution without being ejected will greatly assist the referee and prevent the potential for a major problem. Injury tracking is another important duty. Recording the player's number, the time of the injury and the type of injury could become very valuable information if the player has a serious injury and there are legal matters to resolve. Accurate information allows the referee to use the form to verify the official scoresheet and ensure there are no discrepancies.

the ball was when the injury occurred.

For those referees that also work under other sets of rules, the new ruling agrees with the USSF/FIFA *Laws of the Game*. Previously, NCAA and NFHS were in agreement; an indirect free kick would be awarded to the team in clear possession. □

Bench control

Taking responsibility for bench control allows the assistant referee on the bench side and the referee to focus on the game and not spend time dealing with the bench personnel. Conflict management and people management skills are needed to successfully control the bench staff without confrontation and escalating problems.

The alternate official needs to recognize when to ignore comments and when to take an action to settle a coach, assistant coach or other staff member on the bench. The approach taken must be professional and done in a manner that the desired result is achieved. Debating with a coach or threatening does not work. An alternate official, or any official on the referee team, will never win a debate with a coach or bench staff. That approach will only lead to escalation of the problem and the bench staff being talked to becoming more of a problem. Threatening or using an overly forceful manner will not work either.

That will only heighten the emotional level of the individual being dealt with and create more problems than are necessary.

An alternate official must possess the management skills to talk to the individual in a manner that results in a positive effect. The tact used depends on the personality of the alternate official and how the comments are presented. Each scenario is different and there is no alphabet-soup recipe to resolve conflict.

The alternate official must remain professional and deal with the situation to create a positive effect. If that approach is taken, the referee and assistant referee can focus on their duties and responsibilities.

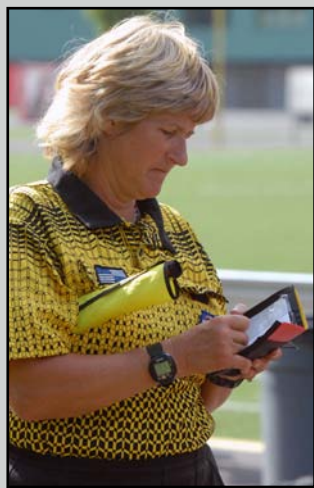
The alternate official has many responsibilities that, if carried out in a professional manner, will greatly assist with game control and flow of play. If assigned as an alternate official, take the job seriously and be prepared to perform the duties and responsibilities.

John Van de Vaarst is the NISOA National Director of Instruction. □

Drop Ball

continued from p. 1

misconduct on the play, the restart must be a drop ball. The drop ball cannot take place inside the goal area, so move the ball perpendicular to where the injury occurred and drop it on the goal-area line, six yards from the site where



Halftime Checks

Susan Cole, Stanwood, Wash., is taking care of a halftime duty that may prevent problems later in the day. As the assistant referee, she is double-checking the facts of the game so far with the rest of the officiating team. Items such as goals scored, players cautioned or facts surrounding an injury should be discussed at halftime. Doing that makes completing the box score form easier at the end of the game.

DALE GARNER

Poor Timing Could Earn Caution

Number 25 has pushed the ball forward with her right foot, planted her left foot and is getting ready to step off again with her right foot. The ball is almost five feet from the players. And *now* there is shin-to-shin contact.

There is no definition for a late hit — but this photo pretty well defines it.

Top referees will wait a split-second to see if number 25 is able to continue her run, either being tripped right away or losing the ball to the opponent on the left of the photo. Many will recognize that contact is worthy of a discretionary caution, and if number 25 is able to continue the run, will say, “Play on, number 12, I’m coming back to you.” Saying the number out loud reinforces it in your mind and if you were to forget, one of your assistants might have heard the number and help you. By not specifying a color for the misconduct card, you leave all the options open from a public word to an ejection.



ED PARCELL

Bench Control

continued from p. 6

Officials in close proximity to the coaching or team area need to recognize when a quiet word, or simply changing their own position, will send the message that a change in behavior is needed. Those actions can be subtle, yet effective. The purpose is to assure control of behavior — not create additional problems by unnecessarily seeming to upstage coaches and draw attention to what may simply be natural excitement that arises during a game. On the other hand, irresponsible behavior on the coach’s part cannot be ignored. Once the behavior crosses the line from normal enthusiasm to that of irresponsible, the officials must take action. Those closest to the team area are the first line of control. Address the behavior verbally. Those violating the rules must be advised to regain proper decorum and, if the individual has left the prescribed coaching or team area, to return immediately.

Discuss it

The officiating team needs to discuss bench control during the pregame conference. Delegate responsibility to the assistants and alternate official, if one is assigned. Most referees will be busy enough with onfield responsibilities and will delegate some responsibility for initial bench control to the assistants or alternate official. Gaining the referee’s attention, if needed for bench control, is a logical topic for the pregame conference. Whether the assistant raises the flag, verbally calls the referee or some other agreed upon signal, a situation may

arise when the referee must become involved in reestablishing control within the coaching and team area. Know before the game begins how to get the referee’s attention. Should circumstances during the game require you to communicate that need, it is too late to wish you had a prearranged signal.

Need the referee

Assistant referees or alternate officials must recognize when their efforts in controlling bench personnel have become ineffective. At that point, communication with the referee is critical to regaining control of the situation. The referee must ultimately become involved, because the rules place responsibility for enforcement on the referee’s shoulders. The necessary authority comes with that responsibility. NCAA rules provide a specific manner for dealing with personnel who refuse to remain within the coaching or team area. Rule 12-20 addresses coaching from the touchlines and confines it to the coaching or team areas. The penalty for being out of the coaching or team area is mentioned there, as well as in 1-12b: “Upon a first occurrence, the referee shall instruct the coach to return to the coaching and team area. On the second infraction, a caution shall be issued. On the third occurrence, an ejection shall be issued.”

The rules are quite clear. Coaches and other team personnel not participating on the field are to remain in their respective coaching or team areas. Assistants or alternate officials are assigned responsibility to assist the referee in maintaining a

(see Bench Control p. 16)

Coaches' Top 10 Irritations

By Kevin Yant

NISOA conducted a questionnaire with 1,500 coaches from across the nation at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America convention. Here is the Top 10 Irritations from their perspective. How many do you fit into? How many do the coaches in your area think you fit into?

1. Won't admit a mistake

Coaches understand referees are human. Referees make mistakes, as do coaches and players playing on the field. If referees make a mistake, coaches wouldn't mind hearing an honest, "My bad," "My error," or "I made a mistake." Of course, saying that a dozen times a match might not go over well.

2. Inconsistency

It is painful to see the same type of contact called three different ways: a no-call, violation, misconduct card.

That is, and will continue to be, an area of constant concern for referees, instructors, assessors and administrators. NISOA will continue to offer training through clinics, assessments, memorandums and position papers to keep referees updated and informed. All National Referee certification clinics include video training targeted at maintaining consistency around the nation using game situations from the previous season. Through onfield training and assessment program, referees can start to become more consistent in the way they apply the rules.

Referees need to take the initiative to be informed and



Coaches appreciate when referees, such as Josh Wilkens, Seattle, strive to maintain consistency.

understand the rules so that they take ownership in becoming consistent. Example: Referee A applied the rule of zero tolerance on foul language last week, and you are the referee for their game this week. You have a higher tolerance to foul language and allow the teams to get away with "industrial language" that drew a card just seven days prior. Where is the consistency?

3. Arrogance

Let's see what *Webster's Dictionary* says about arrogance: "Insolent; pride; intolerable presumption; overbearing manner. Arrogant: presuming on one's rank or power; haughty; proud."

Interpret what coaches are

saying: Are referees approachable? Do referees apply the rules correctly and precisely? Remember one thought: Be professional and treat coaches and players with respect; yet be firm in your decisions.

4. Pregame prejudice

Do you spend more time with the home team coach? Do you chat with players you know well, discussing various soccer and non-soccer topics? What do you think goes through the visiting coaches' and players' mind? Might it be: "The calls are going against us today," or "We're going to be playing against 12 players today."

Keep the conversation to a minimum. Spend equal time with both coaches and teams. Better yet, hold talks with the

coaches together. Observe warm-ups of both teams rather than hold idle chit-chat among your referee crew. Get as much information about the two teams as possible from fellow officials. Do you know their conference standings? Be informed and be prepared to handle any situation that might occur. Most important, do a thorough pregame.

5. Phantom indirect free kick in the penalty area

Cowardly referees call a direct free kick foul in the penalty area as dangerous play.

6. Free kick outside the penalty area when foul occurred two feet inside the area

Are you one of those referees who coaches call "KFC in a box?" Or are you one who applies the rules correctly, no matter what time it happens in the match? You stand on your ethics, reputation and principles to make the proper call. Do you use your assistants to help with that decision-making by silent signals? Discuss all silent signals in your pregame with the referee crew.

7. All sliding tackles are not fouls

That is true. But the tackle must not be committed in a manner considered to be careless, reckless or using excessive force. How many times have you heard, "Hey ref, I got all ball" or "He played the ball." Yes, but what did the player's leg or foot do with the follow-

(see *Irritations* p. 16)

Quick Tip

Look for attitude shifts among players. Right after a misconduct card, right after a goal scored and right after hard contact that is not whistled are potential times for such shifts. There may be more aggressive play, harder challenges in front of benches, more dissent coming from players who had been silent.

What can you do to get some control back? The first step is to hustle more and get closer to play. Use your proximity to prevent aggressive contact. As you close in on play, utter short phrases, such as, "Careful" or "Watch his ankles." If only one player had an attitude shift, use a third party, such as the team captain, to try to quell any troubles.

Irritations

continued from p. 15

through? What about the trailing leg? Did that second leg make contact with the opponent as well? What about the player's body? Was the forward momentum so great that even after legally tackling the ball first, the body slid into the opponent in a careless manner?

8. Referees who fail to protect players

Is that not one of the most important reasons why referees officiate a match? Then why do coaches think referees do not protect players? Ask yourself these questions:

- Did I identify the skilled players?
- Did I protect those skilled players?
- Did I identify those players that play on the edge?
- Did I deal with those players quickly when they went over the edge?
- Did I deal firmly with violent conduct and serious foul play?
- Was my physical ability

up to the level I am officiating?

- If so, was I at the right angle or close to play to accurately assess the situation quickly and correctly?
- Did I apply advantage correctly?
- Did I use misconduct cards to control the game or deal with players appropriately?
- Did I use my skills to manage players rather than use the cards?

9. Referees who ignore their assistants

Are you the referee who makes all the calls? Do you only use the assistants for balls in and out of the boundary lines, offside or substitutions? If you are, the game has passed you up. Referees no longer consider the game as "my" game. It is the players' game, regardless of what level. Referees work as a team of officials. Referees involve their whole crew. Referees communicate with the crew throughout the whole match via silent signals, eye contact or verbally. Assistant referees



Focus on Fitness

The collegiate game is becoming faster at all levels. Players are training to become as fit as possible. As NISOA members, be prepared to be in the best position possible throughout the game to make proper calls.

One of the best ways to do that is be physically fit. Presence leads to conviction. Being close to

play and making the call will do more for game control than being far away and making a call that is critical to the game. Start training and be ready for the season. It is not possible to referee yourself into shape. Each and every NISOA member should be ready by opening day to do the best job possible. □

Bench Control

continued from p. 14

desired degree of control and decorum within the coaching or team areas. If those officials are unable to do so, the referee must become involved. Once the referee's involvement in bench control becomes necessary, the NCAA makes it quite clear what the mandatory penalties will be.

Remember that the bench personnel should be allowed to be enthusiastic, supportive of their onfield participants and enjoy the game. Whenever their

behavior becomes inappropriate or irresponsible, subtle reminders should be employed at first. Failure to respond will necessitate taking stronger measures by the appropriate member of the officiating team. Once the attention of the referee has been drawn to the situation, the choices are set forth clearly and must be enforced. To do any less brings the game into disrepute and can spoil it for participants and spectators alike. *Bill Wagner is a NISOA National Clinician from Oviedo, Fla.* □

help control the game by talking to players, signaling fouls and using their management skills to help control the match. Use your assistant referees.

10. Referees who allow players to use foul language

Let's unite as an organization of 6,000 members — let's set

a common goal to eliminate foul language from the collegiate game. It's a beautiful game. The contest has no place for that type of behavior from players, coaches or spectators. Coaches are behind us and are encouraging us to help them. Eliminate foul language from our game! *Kevin Yant is a NISOA National Clinician from Wheat Ridge, Colo.* □