

Craig's OPL Notebook – Fall – The Sequel

Games: ??

Yellows: 45

Reds: 1

Mentored Games: 15

Recap:

Ahhh...just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water. There are three things that are a sure thing in life; death, taxes, and Fall Soccer. So we are back at it. We started out with the Northwest Champions League, with teams from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. I think you get the drift that the OPL is serious about how much emphasis they are putting on developing the game of soccer. I don't know about you but I was very impressed with the U11's. We are developing players at a much younger age now and we, the referee's, must be aware of that. Do not assume that these kids, even the younger aged kids, haven't developed the mental capacity for understanding the game.

OPL Points of Emphasis for the Fall:

This fall the OPL Council has Points of Emphasis they would like the referee's to keep top of mind.

#1 – Coaches/Players/Referees – Respect

The OPL does consider this a partnership between all parties in this sport. Because of this they are asking that all participants, whether you play, coach, spectate or referee to develop a better sense of cooperation. We all really do have the same goals. We want to see players develop, games well played, coaches respecting referees, referee's respecting coaches and players and spectators enjoying (quietly) the game on the field. It's quite easy to just say it, that doesn't make it so. We do have work on giving respect to all those involved in the game. For starters this year let's all work on "not" taking things personally. We all agree that the game is emotional, let's not react to every comment. Pick and choose your battles; realize that as long as the comment isn't personal, the coach or player is reacting to the call, not to you.

#2 – Injuries

Our second point of emphasis is to deal with injuries straight away. Do not think that a player is faking it, do not think that a player will immediately get up after staying down after a tackle. Our first priority is "Safety of the Players". ALWAYS err on the side of checking a player who is down. Last time I checked I don't remember seeing a medical degree on anybody's wall. If a player stays down bring the coach on and let him determine what needs to be done.

#3 – Checking in Players

A very small point but one that cause's irreparable harm, even before you blow the whistle, is when a coach has his team in a huddle and you then decide that's when you want to check in the players. Please use discretion here. I know we don't usually have a lot of time between games, and if you're rushed, be polite about it. Say to the coach, "Let me know when you're ready to have your players checked in" and leave it at that. Coaches get really irritated when we interrupt them during the pregame.

#4 – Delay of restarts

USS did a full presentation on delaying the restart in our training sessions. If you missed it please go to the OPL website, as we have uploaded that presentation and review it. We do not want to have players deliberately stopping restarts. We will deal with this.

AND DON'T FORGET "HAVE FUN THIS YEAR"!!!!

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