



Odds & Ends

The Elephant in the Room

Odds & Ends

- Proper inflation of game balls
 - “The ball shall be inflated to the manufacturer’s recommended pressure”
 - Most game balls offered have been severely underinflated
- Length of halves
 - Varsity – 40 minutes
 - Sub-varsity – 35 minutes
 - Use proper mechanics and clock stoppages on ALL matches



Odds & Ends

- Uniforms
 - Home in white tops/socks requirement ONLY applies to varsity matches
 - Jerseys and socks must be solid white
 - Non-compliant uniforms
 - Play the game
 - Send report to Geoff
- Dangerous play – “high kick”



Odds & Ends

- When does a team play “short” after a red card?
 - When a player is disqualified
 - When is someone not a “player”?
 - Coach
 - Bench personnel
 - Between periods of play
 - Before the game
 - As soon as the sub is beckoned
 - Impact???



Odds & Ends

- “Location” of the foul
 - Where the foul occurred
 - NOT the location of the ball at the time of the foul.
 - Where the contact occurred or would have
- Requirements for a foul
 - Ball in play
 - Committed in the field of play
 - Committed by a player against opponent*



Odds & Ends

- Foul by defender inside their penalty area with ball outside - PK or DFK?
- Foul by defender outside their penalty area with the ball inside - PK or DFK?
- Goalkeeper inside his penalty area touches the ball (with his hands) while it is outside the penalty area – PK, DFK, or nothing?
- Goalkeeper outside his penalty area touches the ball (with his hands) while it is inside the penalty area – PK, DFK, or nothing?



Odds & Ends

- Getting proper distance
 - Kicking team does NOT have to ask
 - Defending team DOES have to yield
 - Possible caution for Unsporting Behavior
- When to force a ceremonial restart
 - Kicking team asks for 10
 - Issue a caution or disqualification
 - Game control
 - Others?



The Elephant in the Room

- Cherokee v. Washington Twp
- Boys varsity
- 9/11/14

- Referees – Marc Block and Jon Weisbrod



Background – Last season

- SJSCA Cup Final
 - With 19 seconds remaining two opponents challenge each other to a fight
 - Both players disqualified for taunting
 - From one of the ADs:
 - “I would like to reiterate the same sentiments as [the other AD]. I believe this could have been handled differently. It left a bad taste in both schools' mouth after a very good soccer game.”
 - No concern over player behavior, only that the penalty for their behavior was enforced



Background – This season

- Opening Day for both teams
- Washington Twp ranked #1 in NJ



Environment

- Night game
- Large crowd
- Unruly crowd



Game – 1st Half

- Fast and physical
- CHS captain marking WT star very physically
 - CHS captain cautioned for PI
- CHS defender cautioned for reckless tackle
- CHS awarded and converted PK
- CHS AD summoned to deal with spectators directing comments at specific WT players

- End of half – CHS led 2-1



Game – 2nd Half

- WT captain attempts to save the ball before it crosses the touchline, but fails
- Throw in awarded to CHS
- Captain, “You have got to be f-ing kidding me!”
 - Cautioned issued for incidental use of vulgar or profane language



Game – 2nd Half

- CHS captain commits reckless tackle
 - WT coach incensed
 - Officials converse while injured player is treated
 - CHS captain disqualified for subsequent caution
 - CHS coach is livid, claiming WT coach talked officials into the card



Game – 2nd Half

- CHS defender turns to nearest official, “Are you f-
ing serious?”
 - Disqualified for subsequent caution
- CHS is now playing with 9 players to WT’s 11



Game – 2nd Half

- Penalty kick awarded to WT
- Prior to kick, CHS player, “You are f-ing ridiculous!”
 - Player cautioned
- Prior to kick, CHS spectator taunts WT kicker, violating a protected class.
 - CHS AD informed, person removed



Game – 2nd Half

- WT player called for foul along CHS touchline
- Crowd roars
- Player taunts spectators by clapping over his head at them.





Taunting

Rule 12-8-2b



Taunting an opposing players, opposing coaches or opposing fans, the player is to be disqualified.

What is taunting?

- Rule 12-8-2b
 - Taunting – use of word or act to incite or degrade an opposing player, coach, referee or other individual



Game – 2nd Half

- With game 3-2 (WT), CHS makes a strong attack
- WT goalkeeper makes a hard, clean tackle, ball goes out for corner
- WT GK taunts opponent and is disqualified



Game - End

- Final score 3-2 (WT)
- WT coach lectures officials for 5 minutes on field
 - Wants 1st taunting card reduced to a “yellow – red”
 - Concerned that another straight red would eliminate WT from state playoffs
 - Brings up SJSCA Cup Final



After the Game

- WT AD tries to argue that officials coded both taunting cards as “verbal”
 - Only choices are “verbal” or “physical”
- WT AD sends note to SJSOA and to NJSIAA asking for review of match and officials
 - No appeals
 - Claims “Last year the WTHS soccer team won the Sportsmanship award voted on by the South Jersey Referee Association”
 - FACT – last time WT won our award - 1992



After the Game

- WT AD asks that both officials be blocked
 - Officials had already asked to be blocked
- WT AD sends note to NJSIAA asking for both officials to be blocked from their playoff matches
- Moorestown girls coach sends note asking to block Marc Block
 - I have not seen the team since 2012 season



After the Game

- Published article about WT meeting with NJSIAA officials
 - No change to cards issued
 - “It will be on the officiating crews that work Washington Township’s games from here on out to decide the team’s fate.”



After the Game

- Same “news” organization puts up two videos for an online vote.
 - 86% said neither
 - 10% said both
 - 3.5% said only first one (player clapping)
 - 0.5% said only goalkeeper



Lessons Learned

- NJSIAA wants the calls made
 - Until an AD complains
- Do NOT expect the full membership to “have your back”
- While I stand by each card decision, it came at a stiff price

