

Hi Everyone,

It's that time in the season when emotions and frustrations are high and requires us to be exceedingly mindful of game management. Make sure you are clear on card management and know the entirety of Rule 12 Misconduct.

This email is to not emphasize or increase your use of cards. Continue to manage your games as you see fit. Giving a verbal warning is still a good management strategy so that a coach knows where your line is. We all have different lines of what we will put up with so you must communicate where your line is. This way the coach knows when they're crossing it.

It is important to recognize when player and coach behavior requires a card and is equally important to know your carding options when player and coach behavior continues or escalates. By all means, if you deem a player or coach's behavior flagrant and deserving of a red card, then administer accordingly and follow up with your assigner. Understand that you also have the option to give a second yellow card when their behavior escalates or continues, which still disqualifies them from the rest of the game and gives them the opportunity to learn from the mistake without penalizing the entire team the following game.

Keep the following in mind:

1. Continue to do your job, work together with your partner(s) to get calls correct, and support each other.
2. Be sure there is a Game Manager (if there is no game manager the head coach of the offending team is responsible) onsite and available throughout the game! They need to be there to manage any unsportsmanlike behavior with fans. It is better to know who and where they are before you really need them. If fans/parents are getting out of hand, such as using profanity, shouting personal remarks at you or players, or becoming aggressive towards you or your partner, **STOP THE GAME**. Have the Game Manager address the situation. The first time it happens, you may resume play when it is resolved. If you have to stop again, the head coach of the offending team is to be carded (Rule 12, section 7). Any subsequent stoppages you will assess another card to the Head coach who must now leave the venue. If at any point you feel unsafe or the situation continues to digress, you may stop the game. This will be considered an incomplete game.
3. If any of #2 occurs, contact your Assigner. This information needs to go to the County Supervisor, your assigner can do that. If you are concerned it may not go to the County Supervisor, contact myself or Ken. We are here to support you.
4. Finally, remain calm and professional at all times. As officials we must take the high road, as difficult as that can be when other adults are not doing so.

Keep up the hard work and enjoy the rest of the season. Just one week left of the regular season!

Liz Brush

MPSSAA Girls Lacrosse Assigner