

Some Observations from August Soccer Scrimmages:

1) A major NATIONAL point of emphasis is that teams be attired in a proper uniform. There have been three areas during the pre-season scrimmages

where the message seems not to be reaching coaches:

A- Road uniform is SOLID WHITE jersey and SOLID white socks.

B- Cut socks seem to be a fashion choice for many players. They cut the foot off of the uniform sock and pull it up over another sock worn underneath.

But the cut sock gets pulled so high that the underneath sock is clearly visible. If the underneath sock matches the color of the cut sock, closely if not exactly, ok.

If the underneath sock does not match the outer sock at all, have the outer sock pulled down to conceal the sock underneath.

Checking for the cut socks is no different than inspecting for tape or Velcro stays to be consistent with the uniform sock main color.

C- Captain's Bands must be worn on the arm. Teams, particularly women's teams, have captains who place the band on a leg. This is not legal. It goes on the arm.

Refs, do this NOW, insist on proper uniforms, and all of our jobs later this season and into the playoffs will be easier. Note violations in your game reports! Tell the violating coach what you are reporting.

2) Two-man games, be they run to the officials right or the officials left, do not provide the coverage that three officials do. However, there have been issues

where the lead official calls a foul in the middle area of the field and then keeps proximity to the kicker. This does help assure that the defense gives proper

distance but it leaves the drop zone uncovered. Lead officials in a two-man system make sure you get a good look and best proximity you can to where a free kick will land.

3) Assistant Coaches sometimes have a lot to say. (I wonder if the Head Coach puts them up to it?) Do not let an Assistant Coach disrupt your game! We can offer a quiet word, we

can display cards, and we should remember that Assistant Coaches, while valuable, are not essential personnel.

4) Rosters should be provided from each team with all bench personnel listed (players, coaches, manager, trainer).

5) Many schools have lightning detection devices. Many trainers track risky weather on their cell devices. If a trainer alerts you to a threat or the detection device goes off or you see

lightning or hear thunder stop and evacuate. Resumption may not take place until 30-minutes has passed from the last visible lightning or audible thunder.