

Managing Player Injuries

Niagara Soccer Association – 2013



Target Audience - Goals

District Level Referees

- Review Law 5 – Referee Duties
- Discuss Best Practices
- Use of Law 18 – Common Sense
- Game Analysis – Test your understanding

Why Review Injury Management?

- Player Health and Safety is a Referee's primary responsibility
- Injuries to Players are game "HOT SPOTS"
- Managing Injuries help you control and manage the whole game

Minor Injuries

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties

The Referee allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player, in his opinion, is only slightly injured

- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions

- Speak to the Coaches if necessary

- Law 18 – Game Level

Err on the side of caution

Serious Injuries

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties

The Referee stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured

- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions

- Restart – injury off the ball
- AR Positioning - Duties

- Law 18 – Take control of the situation

Get immediate help for the player

Managing Injuries – Play stopped

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties

After questioning the injured player the referee may authorize a doctor to enter the field

- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions

- Who on the bench acts as trainer?

- Law 18 – Distance yourself from the “HOT SPOT”

Should a Referee instruct an Opposing team to kick the ball out of bounds to stop play?

1. YES, always
2. NO, never
3. Only if no goal scoring chance
4. Ask the Coach of the Opposing team

Best Answer is 2. The Referee should not instruct a team to kick the ball out. To stop play, blow the whistle and restart with a dropped ball.

Does a Goal Keeper who is slightly injured have special privileges – to stop play immediately?

1. YES, when they are on the ground
2. NO, treat them like any other player
3. Only if their team has the ball
4. Ask the Coach of the Opposing team

Best Answer is 2. The Goal Keeper is treated like any other player.

Attacking team has the ball, excellent scoring chance, opposing player twists a knee badly and you think it could be serious – You should

1. Play Advantage, allow the scoring chance
2. Depends on position of the Goal Keeper
3. Stop Play immediately
4. Depends on the score and time left to play

Best Answer is 3. If you think the injury is serious, stop play immediately.

Managing Injuries – Play stopped

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties
A Player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play
- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions
 - Stop or Continue the clock
- Law 18 – Don't assess the seriousness of the injury

Managing Injuries – Play Resumes

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties
If the ball is in play the returning player must re-enter the field from the touch line
- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions
 - Use your AR to assist
- Law 18 – Don't make them walk around or go to half

Managing Injuries – Issuing Card

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties

The Referee must issue the card (yellow or red) to an injured player before they leave the field

- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions

- Wait until they are standing and walking off or being helped off

- Law 18 – Respect their space more than you would normally

Managing Injuries – Bleeding

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties
Ensures a bleeding player leaves the field and does not return until the bleeding has stopped
- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions
 - Allow your AR to assess player return
- Law 18 – Stop play at the first sign of bleeding

Game Analysis – Play is Stopped

Trainer and a Coach together enter the field without your permission you should –

1. ALLOW – they just want to help
2. STOP the Coach – Allow the Trainer
3. EJECT the Coach
4. ALLOW both, then Eject the Coach

Best Answer is 1. Allow both to enter the field at lower level games with youth players. At older games, REP and above, only one person should enter the field with the referee's permission.

Game Analysis – Play is Stopped

The Trainer says they are calling an ambulance for the player who can't be moved- you should

1. ASK politely to have the player moved
2. ABANDON the game, if you are in the 2nd half
3. WAIT until player is removed, then resume
4. Ambulances are not allowed on the Field

Best Answer is 3.

Game Analysis – Play Resumes

The returning player has visible blood on their shirt – should you allow them to return if

1. If the game is U14 or younger
2. If less than 500 ml of blood on shirt
3. If they change to a spare shirt with a different number
4. If they change into a clean white T-shirt

Best Answer is 3. Make sure you mark in your book so you can change the number on the game sheet afterwards.

Game Analysis – Issuing Card

The Referee has decided to issue a yellow card after a goal was scored to an injured goal keeper – you should

1. Don't do it – they feel bad enough
2. Speak to the Coach first and explain
3. Wait till time just before play restarts
4. Apologize to the keeper first

Best Answer is 3.
Best to wait till the coach or trainer has left the field before showing the yellow card.

Managing Injuries – Time Lost

- Law 5 – Powers and Duties
The Referee must allow for the full amount of time lost through injury to be added
- Best Practice – Pre Game Discussions
 - Discreet signals for time added
- Law 18 – Consider the conditions, Game level, Field, Lights

Conclusion

Presentation is the Property of the Niagara Soccer Association. Questions can be directed to the NSA at DRCNIAGARA@cogeco.net

Thank you,