

REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES & LIABILITIES- SOME.

The first duty, most important, of a Referee, in scholastic soccer, is **Safety.**

Field. Arrive early to inspect & walk field, for hazard potential & rule compliance.

Danger zone: hole in ground, weather puddles, objects near or on field, *loose goal.*

Benches -minimum- 10 feet away from the touchlines. At 1/2 way line, 20 **YARDS** gap between benches .Space left for scorer table, officials & sub area. Allow neither team, player nor Coach, to encroach, onto opposing bench area. Never let spectators behind the goals. Corner Flags, not less than 5 feet high.

No flag substitute, of hard materials allowed. In sub varsity games, soft-cloth/nylon jackets have been used, *{If Flags unavailable to place, at corners} as safe item.*

Until kick-off, school home administrators are responsible for field safety & playing ability. Once ball is in play, the Referees are responsible & fully liable to ensure safety, play-ability. Due possibly to : weather, equipment issue, injury, Coach or spectator misbehavior or unusual problem.

Adornment Nothing worn to 'look good'- jewelry- earring -is illegal . Religious head gear OK , if not hard abrasive or metal/hard materials, worn tightly. Religious or medical bracelet if worn, it must be taped to body or uniform.

Hair control devices must be soft to touch. Some are sharp & have drawn blood, after an opponent, brushed against them. Ref overlooked, pre game.

Spectator Misconduct. If a spectator or parent seeks you out-avoid them. Do NOT talk or engage. Let home, Coach deal with whomever.

If confrontation- physically- you are pushed or the like, etc:

DO NOT FIGHT BACK! Liability.

Go to bench area or **get together with other Ref. If need be (assault)-go to Police station to report. Call assignor right away.**

Reference: Sports Officiating, A Legal Guide

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