

2012 SRI Pre-Season Bulletin 1

Again this year, weekly bulletins will highlight rules and mechanics issues that come to my attention. Please contact me with any unusual play situations that I can share with officials and associations across the State. I am also looking for video clips of Oregon play situations that I can incorporate into this year's bulletins.

Fitness and Appearance

Pre-season preparation applies to both mental and physical fitness. It is easier to maintain a level of fitness instead of getting in shape, falling out of shape and getting back into shape over and over again. **You cannot officiate yourself into shape.**

Equipment and Uniform

Take the time to review your uniform so that you present a clean, crisp, neat look. As we all know, **“you never get a second chance to make a first impression.”** Many officials work more than one game per week and may need to have multiple uniforms available.

It is also important to review your other officiating equipment, flags, whistles, bean bags and other officiating supplies that make your uniform complete. **Be fit; be neat, be sharp.** Please note that black bean bags are approved for the 2012 season. All crew members must use the same color bean bag and Back Judges must have a second bean bag that is either white, blue or black, depending on the crew's choice.

When long pants are worn, plain **black socks** will be worn instead of the striped socks traditionally worn with knickers. This looks more professional.

When long pants are worn, it is suggested that Umpires wear/use **black towels**. Again, this looks more professional. Do not expect schools to furnish ball towels. A black towel can be purchased for less than \$5.00. Make the investment and look sharp!

Rules and Mechanics

The 3 major rules changes for 2012 involve the definition of a catch, a player's helmet coming off through the down and new free-kick blocking rules. Please review the new rules and case book plays regarding these situations.

Officials have also received a copy of the 2012 Mechanics and Philosophies Update. For 2012, changes have been made in free-kick mechanics and coverages for both 5 and 4-person crews. Please review the diagrams in the handout in your packet.

And Finally.....

I'm looking forward to another season as your State Rules Interpreter. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you or your association.