



Central Mass Soccer Officials Association '25

Ron Judd

Rules Interpreter

cmsorules@gmail.com



Tonights Topics

- 1. Match Management**
- 2. Player Equipment**
- 3. Rules Changes & 2 Videos**
- 4. Recertification Results**
- 5. What's on your mind?**

Match Management 2025

1. PreMatch

- a. Ensure the home team has a medical professional available and introduces themselves.
- b. Keep conversations with coaches friendly but to a minimum
 - i. The coaches want to focus on their team not us.
- c. Explain to captains only they can ask a RESPECTFUL “question” or clarification on the field.
 - i. Caution to non-captains in any verbal or non-verbal unsporting behavior,
 1. including a player using the raised hand for a “card”
- d. Coaches & Captains

“Is your team properly and legally equipped and ready for competition?”

- a. No jewelry on ANY player, not taped or covered jewelry, no watches
- b. no MICRO SHIN GUARDS - Guide is 50% of the shin must be protected**
- c. Uniforms have numbers visible on front and back
 - i. In sub-varsity - the jersey number will prevail

Match Management 2025

2. Clock Management:

- a. Clock 1: stops when you signal - restarts on kicked ball - NOT whistle
- b. Clock 2: stadium clock is a guide, stop at 2 min in each half
- c. Clock 3: Pause clock if in **last 5min of the second half only if leading team is subbing**; tied = no pause; clock resumes until 2min mark, just like a timeout
- d. Clock 4: Countdown the **last 10 seconds loudly in each half**
- e. Clock 5: Clock stops on Goals, Cards, Timeouts and your discretion for time wasting or when you need to control the match temperature
- f. Clock 6: Clock may stop for water breaks on a throw-in, goal kick, NOT during run of play or free kicks
- g. Clock 7: 40 minute halves unless otherwise agreed by coaches/ADs

Match Management 2025

3. Player Management

- a. ALWAYS be respectful - take a breath before speaking to players and coaches - You are the professional on the field.
- b. Judgement calls - soccer is almost exclusively judgement - be decisive get the ball rolling.
 - i. Fouls - Careless (no card), Reckless (Yellow) & Excessive (Red) - always Direct Kicks
 - ii. Infractions - Dangerous plays (aka: high foot) offsides, impeding (obstruction) Indirect Free kick
 - iii. Avoid “discussions” - state the foul/infraction if needed, signal the restart and once the ball is kicked and moves its live.
 - iv. Best Practice: slow whistle,
 - 1. see if advantage is present,
 - 2. if signal and let it develop, bring it back if not.

Match Management 2025

4. Post Match

- a. Confirm cards with scorer player # and reason -
- b. Red cards require an MIAA DISQUALIFICATION REPORT
- c. Thank captains and coaches, admins
- d. Leave the field quickly, be courteous but leave!

Tonights Topics

Sportsmanship

- a. **Disent** - verbal & non-verbal
- b. **Profanity** - Profane & Public
- c. **Profanity** - Profane, Public & Personal
- d. **Taunting**
- e. **Serious Foul Play**

Tonights Topics

Rule Changes & Interpretations

- a. Misconduct - Handball ([video](#))
- b. Handling



Rule 11 - Offside (Video)





Rule 12 Misconduct - Handball



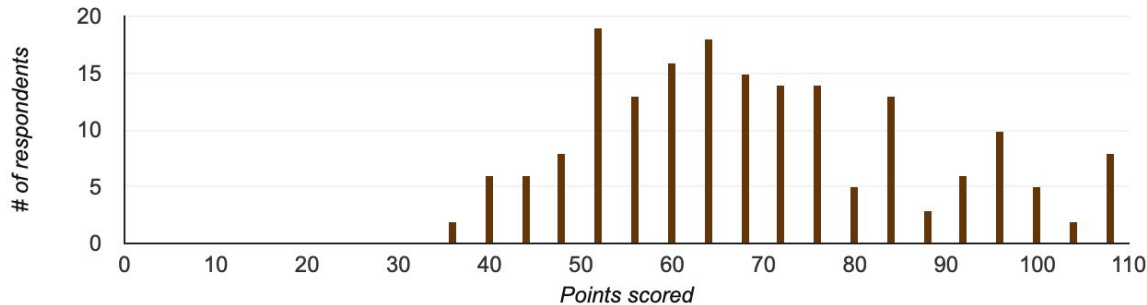
Recertification Test '25

Average
69.51 / 108 points

Median
68 / 108 points

Range
36 - 108 points

Total points distribution

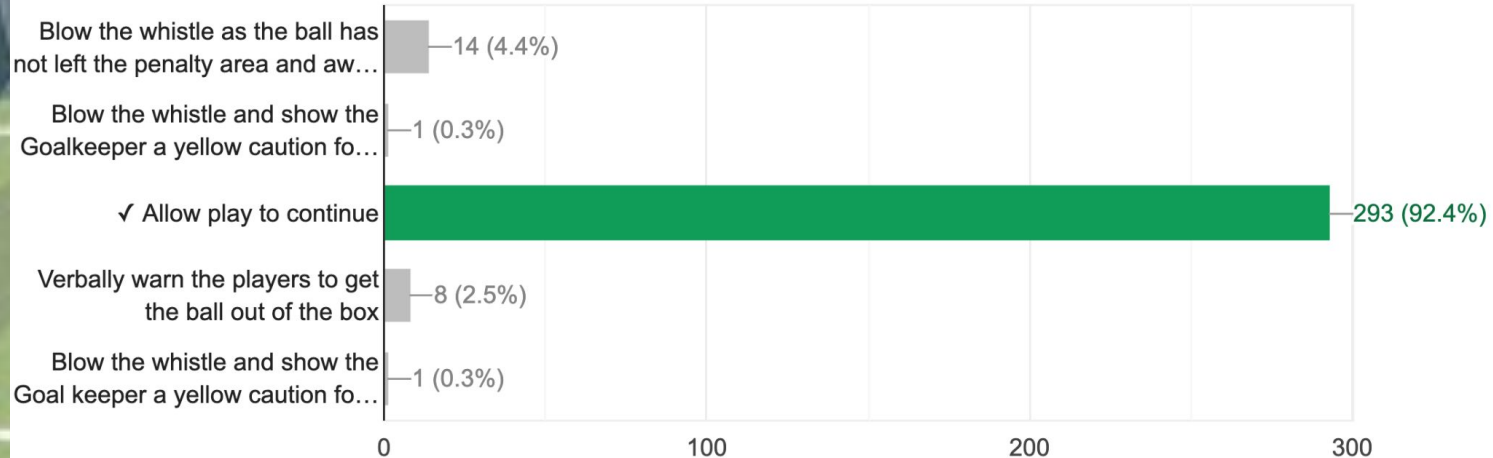


Taking out coaches results - Referees score improved to 74.7

Recertification Test '25

During a goal kick, the goal keeper kicks the ball to their teammate who is inside the penalty area and that player then kicks the ball to another team... inside the same penalty area. The referee should;

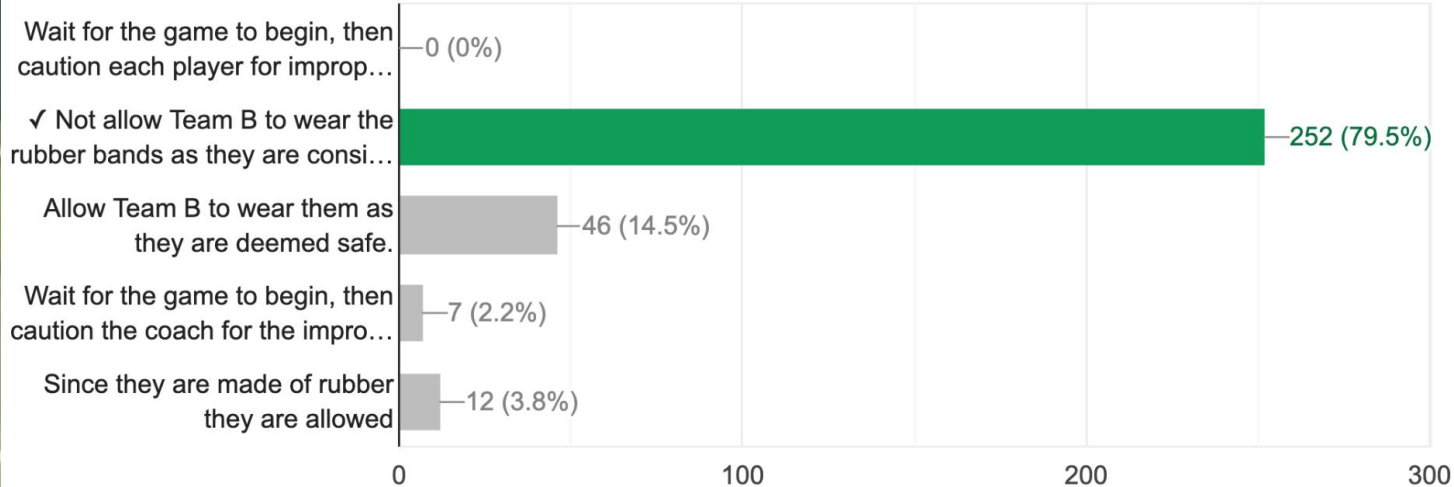
293 / 317 correct responses



Recertification Test '25

Before the game starts, the referee observes that all Team B players are wearing pink rubber bands on their wrists. The referee should:

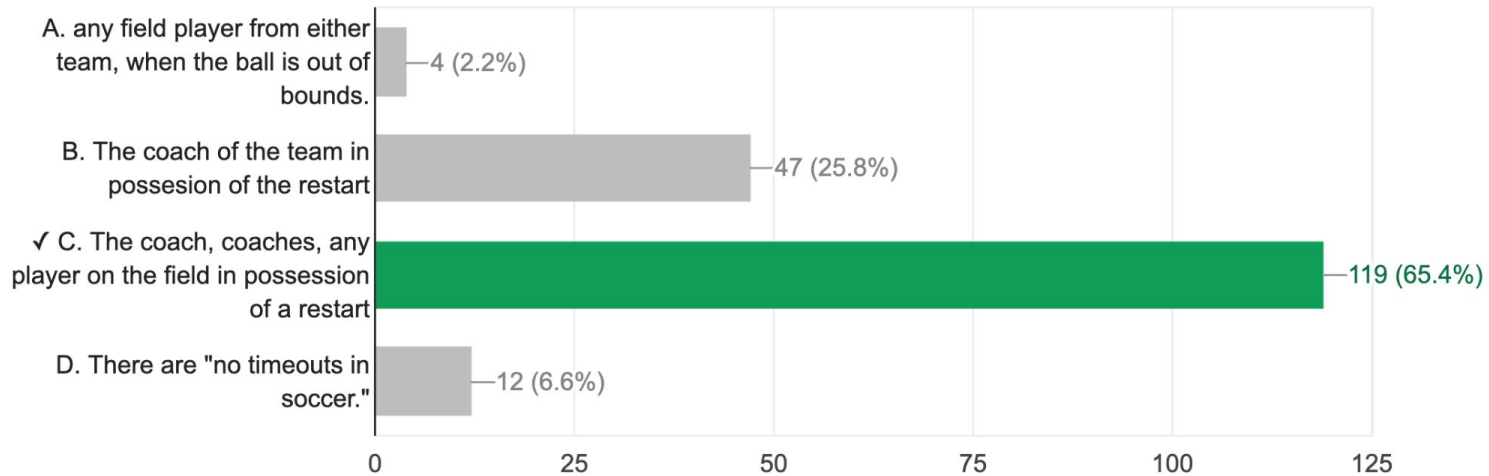
252 / 317 correct responses



Recertification Test '25

Who can call a "Timeout"?

119 / 182 correct responses



Hot Topics 2025

Take a deep breath before you talk to a player or coach

You can't get in trouble for things you don't say!

Be professional - even when others are not

Say Thank you & Smile!



Rule 5 - The Officials

Pre-Match: Arrive 30min before kickoff, dressed and ready to go. Yellow is the default jersey color, black sox, shorts and shoes. Tucked in shirts, look professional, you're getting paid - look the part!

If match has a scorer or time keeper - cover their duties, you time-out signals

PreGame conference with crew, meet you partner in a 2 person system, walk field and discuss how to coordinate the overlapping areas of the field, sportsmanship, signals and who will start on which side.

Ready to Play: Coachees are verbally asked - (Coaches verbally acknowledge that their team is ready to play with regard to equipment, safety and sportsmanship **PRIOR** to Kickoff - Coin Toss is best time for this

Equipment : Required inspection - check the goals nets and flags;

- visually inspect players for proper equipment, don't have them click their shin guards :)

Verification- verify score at haltime and end of game with your partner, verify cautions with coaches; No scoreboard is common for sub-varsity.

- Let them know when when there is **5min** and 2 minutes left,
- count aloud last 10 seconds of EACH period.**

Official Gear- Yellow and Green Jerseys are official HS colors, anything else is optional. Black socks and shoes

