

Good morning!

Loose ball plays.....sometimes it is tough to let a loose ball continue to be a loose ball! Take a look at a loose ball play [here](#). The crew here did a really nice job of not blowing the whistle! The ball was loose and never possessed by opponents to warrant a held ball. The C COULD have taken a step or two towards the scrum to help out since 9 of the 10 players were around the action. The T could also have stepped down to help if needed. Regardless, they officials were patient and let the play resolve itself!

At a camp many moons ago, a high school girls coach was asked to speak to the officials. She asked the whole room why there are so many 'jump balls' called in a girl's game. After the coach left, the clinicians and officials had a discussion about this question. The recommendation was given to the officials to 'suck on the whistle for just a split second longer and almost always the stronger player will take control of the ball.' That philosophy works! Boys, girls, it doesn't matter! MOST held ball plays will clear themselves when doing this. It does not mean that we wait to blow the whistle when the held ball could turn ugly....blow the whistle then. Try this...it takes some conscious thought to do this.

Wednesday Extra; Be prepared for ANYTHING that could happen.....last night in games I was at or got phone calls about, an official was still 15 minutes away for the varsity game when the JV game ended, a varsity player had a seizure during play, a common foul led to a punch being thrown, officials had to work a 4:00 DH THEN go to a varsity game due to shortage of officials, and the beat goes on!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim