



AD's & COACHES Sports ABOUT NYSPHSAA

RULES UPDATES

2014-2015 RULES CHANGES

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Soccer Rules Committee approved two rules changes during its January 27-29 meeting in Indianapolis. The recommended rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The committee approved a requirement that a goalkeeper must leave the field when he/she is injured and the referee has stopped the clock. This decision was made in order to minimize the risk of further injury.

Previously, an injured field player was required to leave the field of play when the referee stopped the clock, but an injured goalkeeper was not. Now, according to Rule 3-3-2, both the field player and goalkeeper must leave the field. Additionally, the goalkeeper must be replaced by either a field player or a substitute.

"The committee wanted to make sure that players who were apparently injured were evaluated by a coach or an appropriate health-care professional," said Mark Koski, NFHS director of sports, events and development and liaison to the Soccer Rules Committee. "The overriding concern is minimizing risk to all students."

Another rule change approved by the committee was to clarify when the jurisdiction of officials begins. It will now begin at the time of their arrival to the field of play and its immediate surroundings, and they are prepared to begin their official responsibilities.

"The original intent was to establish a minimum arrival time for the officiating crew and not to place a limit on the start of their jurisdiction," Koski said. "Jurisdiction for officials now begins at the time of their arrival and when they are in their true role."

Previously, the jurisdiction of officials began 15 minutes prior to the start of the game, but teams and officials are often on the field prior to that and this change allows referees to begin official responsibilities earlier.

"The committee feels that the state of high school soccer is at a good place," Koski said. "They are comfortable with where the game is at right now and do not think that a lot of changes need to be made."

In addition to the official rules changes, the committee added a sample of the duties for a fourth official.

"A fourth official is being utilized in many states, especially at playoff and championship games. There have been numerous requests from state associations to provide fourth official duties," Koski said. "The committee has elected to add sample fourth official duties that may be adopted by the state associations, but are not mandatory."

A complete listing of all rules changes is available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Athletic Activities" in the sidebar menu on the home page, and select "Soccer."

According to the 2012-13 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, soccer is the fourth-most popular girls program with 371,532 participants, and fifth among boys with 410,982 participants.

PREVIOUS RULES MODIFICATIONS:

Waiver to rule 4-1-11i.; goal keeper jersey for the 2012-2014 seasons and a waiver to rule 4-1-1b; home white jerseys for the 2013-2015 seasons. (Jan. 2012)

Girls Overtime Procedure: Regular season games would have two 40 minute halves followed by two mandatory 10 minute fully played overtimes. In Sectional and State Tournament play, the overtimes would be two 10 minute periods of full play followed by two 5 minute sudden victory overtime periods, if needed. Co-champions would be declared in the State Championship game if the tie was not broken after the two 5 minute sudden victory overtimes. (May 2008)

STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS: (MAY 2008)

Length of Period: The game will be played in two equal halves of 40 minutes each.

Shorten Periods: By mutual agreement or in any emergency, by agreement of coaches or ordered by the head referee, provided it is determined to shorten the periods before the game or before the second half begins and all remaining periods are the same length.

Suspended Game: If less than one-half of the game has been completed, the game will be restarted from the point of interruption.

Time on Field: Time may be kept on the field by the head referee.

Score on Field: The official score may be kept by the head referee.

Reserve Official: The reserve official may assume the duties of the scorer.

Yellow Card Accumulation Policy: It is the intention of the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Committee to address the issue of the accumulation of Yellow Cards during the soccer season by an individual player or coach. The situations surrounding Red Cards are dealt with directly under the NYSPHSAA Guidelines for Sportsmanship and Misconducts outlined in the State Handbook for all sports. The consequences for the accumulation of excessive Yellow Cards will be as follows:

1. Five Yellow Cards accumulated by a single player or coach in the regular season will result in a one game suspension. Disqualifications due to an accumulation of five yellow cards occurring in the last game of the season will carry over into the next season of participation, if the team does not enter post season play.
2. The continued accumulation of Yellow Cards by the same individual or coach will result in a one game suspension per additional Yellow Card.
3. In the event that the player or coach receives two Yellow Cards in the same game, resulting in a Red Card, the two Yellow Cards will not count toward the season total, since the player or coach will receive a one game suspension as a result of the misconduct and ejection.
4. The accumulation card total is for regular season play only and the process will start over again for post season play. However, any penalties awarded as a result of the last regular season game will carry over into the post season.
5. The post season policy will provide a one game suspension after three Yellow Cards and a one game suspension for each additional card received through the State Final. A one game suspension resulting from a yellow card in a team's last post season game will carry over into the next season of participation.
6. The coaches of both schools are to report all Yellow Cards to their League and Section by means of Mail, E-mail or Fax for tabulation. The officials should report to their boards concerning games in which cards are given and the reasons for issuance of the card. Board policy will determine the method of notification to the League and Section. A final end of the year report including data on disqualifications shall be sent to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Coordinator.
7. Refusing to report, or failing to report infractions and allowing players to continue play under these circumstances will result in the forfeiture of all games in which the individual in question participated.

Scrimmages: A soccer scrimmage may not exceed a total of 100 minutes and unlimited substitutions are permitted. The length of time for the periods of play is to be determined by the coaches, not to exceed 40 minutes in any one period: halves, three periods or quarters. Scoreboards may be used for timekeeping only. The clock will begin with the goal keeper in possession of the ball. When a goal is scored, play will be restarted with goalie possession. The goalie can restart play with a goal kick, goalie throw or goalie punt.