

2018 Pre-Season Points of Emphasis

Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO)

The penalty associated with a player who denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity has been amended so the penalty now better fits the infraction. To identify when a DOGSO occurs officials are encouraged to consider the “Four Ds” :

- 1) **Defenders** – there should not be more than one defender between the foul and the goal, not counting the defender who committed the foul.
- 2) **Distance to the goal** – the closer the foul is to the goal, the more likely it is an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
- 3) **Distance to the ball** – the offensive player must be close enough to the ball at the time of the foul to continue playing the ball.
- 4) **Direction of play** – the offensive player must be moving in the direction of the goal at the time the foul was committed.

All four of these conditions or criteria must be present for a DOGSO situation to exist. If any of these considerations are missing... it is NOT an obvious goal scoring opportunity. Remember that the absence of a DOGSO situation does not void the calling of a foul and awarding of the appropriate penalty if one existed.

Excessive Player Substitutions

Concerns have been expressed in situations where teams make excessive substitutions towards the end of a game in an effort to waste time. According to Rule 3-6, a referee has the discretion to stop the clock during the substitution so that time is not lost. Further, the referee may consider this unsporting conduct and a caution may be issued to the coach of the offending team.

Referee Mechanics for Indirect Free Kicks (IFK)

When a team is awarded a free kick, it is important that the referee correctly utilize the correct signal for either a direct or indirect free kick. This is especially important if the free kick is near the opponent’s goal. For an IFK, the referee must raise one arm vertically in the air (with the second referee following with the same signal), and maintain that position until the ball is touched by another player. It is critical that players for both teams know what kind of kick has been awarded so the team taking the kick can properly execute the kick, and the team defending knows whether a goal may be scored directly from the kick.

Cautions (Yellow Card) & Disqualifications (Red Card)

Any yellow (caution) or red card (disqualification) issued to a player or coach in any level of high school game must be reported on the MIAA Soccer Roster & Score Sheet. This goes from 9th grade teams up to varsity level. The schools are then responsible to report the cards to the MIAA.

Any red card disqualification issued to a player or coach must be reported on the MIAA Contest Disqualification Form. These have been streamlined so they can be used for any sport. There is a separate form for coaches and for students.

MIAA Soccer Roster & Score Sheet

All games at the high school level **MUST** have a MIAA Soccer Roster & Score Sheet at the field, provided by the home school. This was emphasized to all the schools in MA by the MIAA. A handwritten roster is not acceptable. If there is not a sheet at the field, provide one of the copies you should be carrying in your bag. Then report the school and coach to the assignor of that game. We will be asking the assignors to notify the schools early on in the season so that we can get the message across and hopefully have all schools in compliance.

Vulgar or Profane Language

Incidental use of vulgar or profane language by a player or coach must be penalized with a caution (yellow card) . (MIAA 78.2.2) If a player uses such language in frustration , under their breath, verbally warn the player. If a player makes a loud outburst, not directed at anyone but loud enough for other players and spectators to hear then a caution is warranted. Address this in your pre-game conference with the captains.

NFHS Soccer Rules Book – Play Rulings

Example play rulings are given in each section pertaining to that rule. New or revised rulings are shaded in the new rules book. One revised ruling that bears mentioning is under Rule 12 Fouls & Misconducts and focuses on handling.(page 57):

12.2 Situation A: A player, who is part of a wall in a free kick, moves the hands after the kick to protect his/her face from the ball. **Ruling:** *The hand movement is deemed to be a reflex action and is not considered to be deliberate handling. Protecting the head, face, groin or chest from a hard shot OR pass using the hands or arms as a reflex is not considered deliberate and therefore not handling.*

Rule 14.1 Penalty Kick Art.4: The player taking the penalty kick is permitted to use a stutter- step or a hesitation move provided there is no stopping and there is continuous movement toward the ball. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall be considered a violation by the attacking team and appropriate penalties shall apply. **What is the appropriate penalty?** *A player who starts his/her approach and does not kick the ball (or stops their movement) shall be cautioned and the kick will be retaken by another player. (page 70).*

General Recommendations

Look for attitude shifts amongst players in your games. Right after a misconduct card, right after a goal is scored and right after some hard contact that is not whistled are potential times for such shifts. There may be more aggressive play, harder challenges in front of benches, more dissent coming from players who had been silent. **What can you do to get some control back?** The first step is to hustle more and get closer to play. Use your proximity to prevent aggressive contact. As you close in on a play, utter short phrases such as “careful” or “watch his ankles”. Make the players aware that both of you are watching them closely.

Pre-Game Conference; This a must for all officials assigned to a match in order for the match to be successfully managed. Talk about experience with either team in the match, mutual expectations you both may have, positioning on the field as both lead and trail, signaling for substitutions, and eye contact.