

2018 NFHS Soccer Rule Changes Summary

Rule 4-1-1a The home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks and the visiting team shall wear white or light jerseys and socks. Dark being defined as any color which contrasts with white. *Rationale: this change allows home teams to wear their school-color jerseys at home.*

Rule 4-1-1b Both socks shall be of the same color, with the home team wearing socks of a single dominant color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey. The visiting team shall wear white or light colored socks. Any tape, stays, straps, braces, or over-socks must be of similar color to the sock.

Rule 4-1-1d If visible apparel is worn under the jersey or shorts it shall be of similar length for an individual and a solid liked-color for the team. *Rationale: the previous rule caused financial hardships for some player and schools. The rule allows for the purchase on one set of cold -weather undergarments per player.*

Rule 4-2-10 New State associations may on an individual basis permit a player to participate while wearing a head covering if they meet the following criteria:

- For medical or cosmetic reasons. Must be required by a licensed physicians.
- Must be non-abrasive, hard or dangerous and highly unlikely to come off during play.

Rule 8-1-2 At the moment of the kickoff, all players, except the player taking the kickoff, shall be in their own team's half of the field. *Rationale: this allows the player taking the kickoff more flexibility in kicking the ball in any direction.*

Rule 11-1-4 (wording change) A player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player, in an offside position, becomes involved in active play by:

- a) interfering with play or with an opponent or:
- b) seeks to gain an advantage by being in that position.
- c) A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage. Indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction. *Rationale: this change better articulates the difference between being in an offside position and an offside violation.*

Rule 12-8-1f A player shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- Committing an offense against an opponent within his/her own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal- scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, if the offense was an attempt to play the ball.

Rule 12-8-2d A player shall be disqualified (red card) for:

- Committing a foul outside the penalty area, attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the goal is not scored.
- Committing a foul, inside the penalty area, while not attempting to play the ball, and the goal is not scored. *Rationale: the changes addresses the issues of denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) that occur in the gamethat place a player and team in double jeopardy when applying a penalty.*

Rule 13-2-1 Art.1 (new) Direct free kicks are awarded and taken from the point of the infraction if:

- A player, coach, or bench personnel enters or leaves the field without permission of an official and interferes with play or an official.

Rule 13-2-3 Art.3 The following indirect free kicks are taken from where the ball was when the referee stopped play:

- If a player, coach or bench personnel enters or leaves the field of play without permission of an official and does not interfere with play or an official. *Rationale: both these rules maintain a focus on the proper decorum and behavior of the benches.*

Rule 18-1-g (new) A deliberate act is one in which a player chooses to act, regardless of the outcome of that action. This deliberate act is neither reaction or reflex. A deliberate action may result in the opponent benefiting from the action (ex. a deliberate, but misplayed ball that goes directly to an opponent). A reaction or reflex may result from that player benefiting from the action (ex. a ball inadvertently contacting the arm and falling directly to the player's feet). *Rationale: this definition provides guidance for interpretation of rules that contain the word deliberate or phrase deliberate act.*

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