



# 2005-06 NFHS SOCCER RULES INTERPRETATIONS

**Publisher's Note:** The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

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**SITUATION 1:** If a game is terminated by the referee due to fighting, regardless of the score at the time, does the official have the authority to declare a winner? **RULING:** No. The matter must be reported to the state association, which will declare a winner. (7-1-3)

**SITUATION 2:** May the head coach send an assistant coach to the pregame conference with the head referee and captains to review pertinent rules, conduct the coin toss and verify that players are properly equipped? **RULING:** No. The NFHS Soccer Rules Committee now requires that the head coach attend this meeting and is not permitted to send an assistant coach. (5-2-2)

**SITUATION 3:** A player has a knee brace. She has a signed note from her orthopedic surgeon and a note from her athletic director. May the referee determine that the knee brace is dangerous and not allow her to play even though the girl was allowed to play last weekend wearing the same brace? **RULING:** Yes. The referee has the authority to determine whether equipment is dangerous or confusing. (5-2-2d 3)

**SITUATION 4:** Many school districts are building multi-use, artificial turf facilities primarily for soccer, football and track. May soccer goals be placed on the end line of the football field even if they are not two yards in front of the football goal posts? **RULING:** No. **COMMENT:** Rule 1-4-1 states that "portable goals...if used on football fields should be anchored at least

2 yards in front of the existing football goal posts."

**SITUATION 5:** Can a team substitute an unlimited number of players from the bench after a) a caution, b) an injured player who is required to leave the field of play or c) after a goal is scored? **RULING:** In a) and b), a team may not substitute an unlimited number of players from the bench but may substitute for the cautioned/injured player. In c), either team may substitute an unlimited number of players. (3-3-1, 3-3-2)

**SITUATION 6:** Under NFHS rules, must the player actually touch the ball to be judged offside for "interfering with play?" **RULING:** No. **COMMENT:** Although other rules bodies may interpret this way, the high school game does not require that the player touch the ball in this situation. (11-1-3; Diagrams 8, 12, 13)

**SITUATION 7:** Both teams have players checked in at the scorer's table prior to a dead-ball substitution opportunity (injured player). Once the dead-ball substitution opportunity occurs and the referee beckons the players onto the field, must these players enter the field of play? **RULING:** Yes. (3-4-1a)

**SITUATION 8:** Are prescriptive sunglasses legal for play? **RULING:** Yes. (4-2-1)

**SITUATION 9:** May a team use a navy-and-white striped jersey as both home and away uniforms? **RULING:** No. **COMMENT:** There is no predom-

inant color, and the home jersey must be light and away jerseys dark. (4-1-1)

**SITUATION 10:** Are sounding devices by spectators illegal? **RULING:** No, however, most state associations have regulations for tournament play that prohibit specific types of noise makers. **COMMENT:** If the sounding device is causing confusion on the field among officials or players, the official(s) has the authority to suspend play or terminate the game under 5-3-2g.

**SITUATION 11:** May player benches, scorer's tables, fencing, bleachers or any objects be placed within 10 feet of the touch line or goal line? **RULING:** It is recommended that a 10-foot minimum boundary exist between the playing field and any object. (Soccer Field Diagram)

**SITUATION 12:** May a soccer game be played on a football field where all markings are in white? **RULING:** Yes, however, the NFHS recommends that the soccer markings contrast in color to the football markings. (1-2-1)

**SITUATION 13:** Can schools purchase nets with the name or mascot of the school stenciled on it? **RULING:** Yes. (1-4-2)

**SITUATION 14:** Neither team has substitutes at the scorer's table when a player becomes injured. Can either team substitute an unlimited number of players? **RULING:** No, however, the injured player may be substituted for from the bench. (3-3-2b)

**SITUATION 15:** Can schools put players' names on the backs of their jerseys? **RULING:** Yes, as long as the name doesn't obstruct the player's number. (4-1-1j)

**SITUATION 16:** May players other than the goalkeeper wear gloves? **RULING:** Yes, however, if in the opinion of the referees gloves are dangerous or confusing, they are illegal. (4-2-1)

**SITUATION 17:** Are warm-ups with multiple logos permitted to be worn by bench players or coaches? **RULING:** Yes. (4-1-1)

**SITUATION 18:** If a player is wearing shinguards no less than 2 inches above the ankle, are they legal even though the shinguard covers only half the shin? **RULING:** No. **COMMENT:**

Shinguards must also be age- and size-appropriate and provide adequate protection. (4-1-1)

**SITUATION 19:** Are nose guards designed to protect a broken nose legal? **RULING:** No. (4-2-1)

**SITUATION 20:** Is it legal to wear a guard over eye glasses? **RULING:** No. (4-2-1)

**SITUATION 21:** Are padded headbands made of soft material legal for field players? **RULING:** Yes, as long as the product does not contain any hard or unyielding material. (4-2-3)

**SITUATION 22:** Are officials mandated by rule to use the official NFHS Soccer Signals in a contest? **RULING:** Yes. (5-3-1b)

**SITUATION 23:** Is it permissible for officials to wear a shirt with the USSF logo on it? **RULING:** Yes, if permitted by the state association. (5-1-3)

**SITUATION 24:** Is it mandatory for the head referee to address coaches and players prior to the game about good sportsmanship? **RULING:** Yes. **COMMENT:** The NFHS has instituted this practice in all sports. (5-2-2).