

National Federation of State
High School Associations



Rules Changes

3-1-3: Each team shall submit a team roster, containing the first and last names and numbers of all players, all bench personnel and all coaches, to the officials at least five minutes prior to the start of the contest. The game shall not begin until this is complete. Players, bench personnel and coaches may be added to the roster after the start of play. Goalkeepers may have two numbers listed on the roster, a goalkeeper's number and a field player's number.

4-1-1i(3): The jersey of the goalkeeper shall be distinctly different from that of any teammate or opponent, except the other goalkeeper. The shorts or pants and socks of the goalkeeper are not required to be the same color as his/her teammates, but must comply with 4-1-1f.

4-1-3 (new): It is recommended that substitutes wear distinguishing pinnies when warming up outside of the team area.

4-3: Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly and legally equipped.

PENALTY: Illegally Equipped Players (18-1-1r)

The head coach shall receive the first caution issued (yellow card) for an illegally equipped player. All subsequent cautions (yellow cards) for illegally equipped player(s) shall be issued directly to the player(s) and not to the head coach.

Illegally equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except where the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.

The player must be removed and may be replaced at the time of the caution to the coach or player(s).

The removed player(s) may re-enter at the next legal substitution opportunity only after reporting to an official who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order.

12-8-1f(10) (new): A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- a. entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of an official;
- b. persistent infringement of any of the rules of the game;
- c. objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent);
- d. any incidental use of vulgar or profane language;
- e. any use of video or audio communication with players or other persons to assist in coaching during the game or any intervals. Examples: Amplifying devices, wireless communication devices such as cell phones, headphones, personal digital assistant, etc.;

NOTE: A coach may engage in verbal communications with his or her own team during play.

f. unsporting conduct, including, but not limited to:

1. coaching outside the team area;

2. unnecessary delay (kicking, throwing the ball away on a free kick, etc.);
3. holding a shirt, short, etc.;
4. deliberate verbal tactics;
5. encroachment;
6. deliberate handball to stop an attack;
7. deliberate tactical foul;
8. faking an injury;
9. simulating a foul;
10. player who displays reckless play.

12-8-1f(11) (new): A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- a. entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of an official;
- b. persistent infringement of any of the rules of the game;
- c. objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent);
- d. any incidental use of vulgar or profane language;
- e. any use of video or audio communication with players or other persons to assist in coaching during the game or any intervals. Examples: Amplifying devices, wireless communication devices such as cell phones, headphones, personal digital assistant, etc.;

NOTE: A coach may engage in verbal communications with his or her own team during play.

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3. holding a shirt, short, etc.;
4. deliberate verbal tactics;
5. encroachment;
6. deliberate handball to stop an attack;
7. deliberate tactical foul;
8. faking an injury;
9. simulating a foul;
10. player who displays reckless play;
11. illegally equipped player, per 4.3.

12-8-1f(12) (new): A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- a. entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of an official;
- b. persistent infringement of any of the rules of the game;
- c. objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent);
- d. any incidental use of vulgar or profane language;

e. any use of video or audio communication with players or other persons to assist in coaching during the game or any intervals. Examples: Amplifying devices, wireless communication devices such as cell phones, headphones, personal digital assistant, etc.;

NOTE: A coach may engage in verbal communications with his or her own team during play.

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1. coaching outside the team area;
2. unnecessary delay (kicking, throwing the ball away on a free kick, etc.);
3. holding a shirt, short, etc.;
4. deliberate verbal tactics;
5. encroachment;
6. deliberate handball to stop an attack;
7. deliberate tactical foul;
8. faking an injury;
9. simulating a foul;
10. player who displays reckless play;
11. illegally equipped player, per 4.3;
12. any delayed, excessive or prolonged act(s) by which a player(s) attempts to focus attention upon himself/herself and/or prohibits a timely restart of the game.

18-1-1ff (new): RECKLESS PLAY – A player has acted with complete disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.

NFHS Official Soccer Signals: The NFHS Official Soccer Signals have been modified to add “Goal” as an official signal.

Points of Emphasis

1. Concussion Management
2. Elbows
3. Player Equipment
4. Handling
5. Online Education

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