

TO: TASO Soccer Members

Every District, Play-off, and Regional game is a part of the Journey to the State Championship for the teams, players, coaches and even the spectators. We must enforce the rules correctly and consistently, beginning with the first game of the season.

So, having said that (again), and some of us are still not doing things properly, let's look at some points. In no particular order.

**Scrimmages** - Even though scrimmages are over, it has become apparent that many referees didn't enforce the NFHS rules during this period, because they were "ONLY" scrimmages. Scrimmages are to be handled just as the most important district game is handled. If a player (or coach) does something to deserve a disqualification, then disqualify him/her. We saw several incident reports which indicated very egregious behavior, with the comment, "The person wasn't sent off, because it was *only a scrimmage*". WRONG! If they deserve a disqualification in a scrimmage, then disqualify them. Now, for what it's worth, the UIL doesn't monitor misconducts in scrimmages, but virtually ALL school districts have policies in place to deal with athletes and/or coaches who misbehave.

Next year, we MUST enforce the rules (ALL OF THEM) in scrimmages.

**Foul Language** - Here we have two options:

1. Caution for:

Rule 12.8.1.d - any incidental use of vulgar or profane language

NOTE: By state association adoption, incidental use of vulgar or profane language may be a disqualification (red card).

We will get an exact qualification of "any incidental use of vulgar or profane language" as per the yellow highlighted text above from UIL and report back to you.

2. Disqualification for:

Rule 12.8.2.f - using insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture;

We are seeing incident reports indicating players are yelling foul and vulgar language loudly and provocatively and are only being cautioned. If a player drops an "F-Bomb" loudly and provocatively, it is a disqualification. If a player or coach uses "insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture(s)", and ANYONE else hears/observes the outburst, they SHALL be ejected. You have a bit of leeway, if the only people who are aware of the outburst (use of foul and vulgar language) are you (the referee) and the perpetrator. If this is the situation, then you can caution and obviously have a word with the person. Also, there are "dirty" words that don't rise to the level of foul/vulgar/abusive. If this is the case, a caution is warranted. **REMEMBER** this isn't always just bad or vulgar language, it also includes insulting and any offensive language. Also, think about this - even though a referee may not "feel threatened or intimidated" by abusive behavior and/or language of a coach or spectator, if it is witnessed by kids and young athletes, they are negatively impacted, and they need to see someone address it, preferably the administrator. If it isn't addressed, the young athletes accept it as "normal" behavior, hence a lot of our problems and issues. And it must be reported via an Incident Report.

**Incident Reports - Disqualifications**

We are seeing an uptick of Incident Reports being filled out this year, and most of them are quite good reports. Thank you. Many areas seem to be GREAT sending in incident reports which, for the most part, are well written. This includes Tarrant, Dallas, Tyler and Greater Longview, and a lot of good reports from San Antonio and Capital area and the valley, as well. Thank you. When

an Incident Report asks for your chapter, please put your TASO Chapter, i.e., Houston, Dallas, West Texas, El Paso, etc. We see a lot of TASO Soccer chapters listed as "TASO". Now, a few of you still aren't including the name of the players you disqualified (or cautioned). The UIL modified their online Incident Report this year to include the "number" of the player from the home and visitor team that you disqualified. But says nothing about their name(s). This would seem to indicate that only the number is needed, which is incorrect. We need the name (and the team they are associated with) of every player disqualified. A few incident reports this year indicate the players name and number (#16, Sally Player) but you don't tell us which team Sally is associated with.

We are asking the UIL to modify their online Incident Reports next year.

### **Incident Reports - Administrators on Duty**

We are seeing another problem this year with administrators not being present or available during your game, and when a situation arises and they are needed, they are nowhere to be found.

PLEASE fill out an Incident Report if this ever happens to you. Thank you.

**Taunting** - In high school soccer, taunting is a straight red card.

Rule 12.8.2.b - taunting – use of word or act to incite or degrade an opposing player, coach, referee or other individual.

We are seeing incidents of taunting that are not being dealt with correctly. If you see someone taunting another player/coach/referee/other individual, you SHALL disqualify that person.

**Disqualified Players** - We have seen where a player was ejected and the referee insisted they leave the bench area and sit in the bleachers. This is the wrong procedure. Ejected players are to sit on the bench with their teammates and behave themselves. Most players are minors and we cannot assume the responsibility for them by insisting they leave the bench area. This could be a huge liability for the referee if anything happened to that player. Coaches, on the other hand, MUST leave the bench area and the vicinity of the field. The coach CANNOT go sit in the bleachers.

### **And some Trivia tidbits:**

1. Question - Where are players required to leave the field in a high school game?

Answer - This isn't addressed anywhere in the high school (NFHS) Rule Book. The referee has the discretion to ask the players to leave wherever they (the referee) want.

2. Question - Are whistles required after goals are scored in high school?

Answer - The short answer is "yes", but it's another one that isn't specifically mentioned in the NFHS book.

It's extrapolated from a couple of other rules:

Rule 5.3.1.a - The officials shall sound the whistle to stop, start or restart as necessary.

Rule 5.3.1.c - The officials shall sound the whistle when the entire ball crosses a touchline or goal line unless it is obvious the ball is out of play.

Since play is technically stopped when a goal is scored, the whistle after a goal, is used to validate the goal.

Many will bring up that if a ball hits the back of the net. it's "obvious" that the "whole ball" has crossed the "whole line", and a whistle isn't necessary.

What is the definition of a goal?

Rule 10.1.1 - A goal is scored when the entire ball passes beyond the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar provided it has not been deliberately thrown, carried or propelled by the hand or arm of a player of the attacking team.

So, the referee may also need to blow the whistle to stop play if any "cheating" occurred before the ball hit the back of the net.

3. Question - Are there any "soft red" cards in high school?

Answer - NOOOOOOOOO!!!

Now, having said this, we have seen some "old" Game Reports / Roster Sheets in an area of Houston this year, that indicate, on the game sheet:

NOTE: for the following disqualifications the team does not have to play short

D-5 - Taunting

D-6 - Subsequent caution

**THIS IS NOT CORRECT!!!!**

And a coach, in a game this year, played this "card" when one of their players was disqualified and the referee made the team play short.

The game sheet currently on the UIL web site is correct, and does not indicate this misinformation.

[Soccer Game Report.pdf \(uiltexas.org\)](#)

You may want to print this off and have it, in case a coach tries to use this "ploy" to influence a referee to let them play full sided after a disqualification.

4. Question - Do we stop the clock in the last 5 minutes of the second half if the team in the lead is substituting?

Answer - YES!!!

Remember, the team in the lead does not have to necessarily initiate the substitution, only participate in the substitution.

We aren't doing this consistently. We've personally witnessed several games this year where this wasn't adhered to.

5. Question - If we have a bench clearing "fracas" during a game, do the bench players who entered the field get disqualified?

Answer - YES!!!

I've personally witnessed this occurring on two games this year (and heard of several others) and the players entering the field were not disqualified. ALL players who enter the field SHALL be disqualified. They don't have to participate in the fight...the mere act of entering the field gets them disqualified. We must file an Incident Report for these instances and ensure all players fighting and entering the field get disqualified and it's documented on the Incident Report.

6. Question - Do we stop the clock if we call/award a penalty kick during a game?

Answer - YES!

Question 6 part B - When do we start the clock again after the penalty kick?

Answer - When the ball is legally put back into play.

So, if the PK is converted, we restart the game and clock with a kick-off.

If the PK is saved by the keeper, we start the clock at that point and keep playing.

If the PK flies over the cross bar, we restart with a goal kick and start the clock when the goal kick is legally put into play.

If the keeper deflects the ball over the cross bar, we restart with a corner kick and start the clock when the corner kick is legally put into play.

If some sort of "cheating" occurs (encroachment, for example) during the taking of the penalty kick, we restart with an indirect free kick and start the clock when the IFK kick is legally put into play.

Regards,

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