Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

PIAA Officials’ Staff:
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2017-18 NFHS SOCCER RULES CHANGES

Rule 4-1-1d: If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be a solid color matching the predominant color of the respective garment. Visible arm compression sleeves shall be a similar length, all alike and of a solid color matching the predominant color of the jersey. Visible leg compression sleeves shall be of a similar length, all alike and of a solid color matching the predominant color of the shorts. **Rationale:** Players often wear compression shorts which are longer than the short or jersey. They should be of the same color. This rule addition is needed to maintain consistency with current uniform rule requirements and color restrictions.

Rule 4-2-1: Deleted
**Rationale:** With the adoption of the change related to the use of headgear as opposed to only headbands, this exception is no longer necessary.

Rule 4-2-9: Soft padded headgear is permitted.
**Rationale:** This allows for the newer headgear styles that are currently in the market to be used that are not just headbands.

Rule 5-1-3f: Unless otherwise prohibited by the state association, electronic communication devices may be used to communicate with crew members.
**Rationale:** This rule allows, but does not require, the use of common communication devices that are currently available and affordable. This will permit officials to utilize such equipment and improve communication allowing for a better officiated game, if permitted by the state association.

Rule 8-1-3: The ball is kicked and clearly moves in any direction. If the kickoff is taken improperly, it must be retaken.
**Rationale:** Requiring that the ball move forward on the kickoff is meaningless in the modern game.

Rule 10-1-3f: A goal may not be scored directly from a kickoff into the kicking team’s own goal.
**Rationale:** This change retains consistency with the concept that a team cannot score against themselves from a free kick, as provided in 10.1.3 c, d and e.
2017-2018 NFHS Soccer Rules Changes

Rule 13-1-2: All free kicks, with the exception of penalty kicks, may be taken in any direction. Free kicks are taken from the spot of the foul except for the reasons listed in 13-2-3, which are taken from the location of the ball when the referee stopped play. Free kicks resulting from fouls committed in the goal area are taken as described in 13-1-3 or 13-1-4. Indirect free kicks for offside (13-2-2b) are taken from the spot where the offending player interfered with play, interfered with an opponent or gained an advantage by being in that position.

Rationale: The current rule also does not clearly identify where indirect free kicks for offside are taken. This change makes it clear.

Rule 14-1-4: The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground from the spot or any place on the penalty mark. To be in play, the ball shall be moved forward. 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 the appropriate penalties shall apply. Stutter-stepping is not an interruption in movement.

Rationale: This addition of these sentences clarifies that the stutter step is allowed.

2017-2018 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

Rule 4-1-1D: This rule change maintains consistency with current uniform rule requirements. This rule prevents players from wearing different colored, contrasting colors for easy identification.

Rule 4-2-9: The use of soft padded headgear is now permitted but not required. This change provides an expanded scope of the use of headwear to include soft padded headgear and headbands. NOTE: No head gear can stop concussions, and all sports should be played, coached and officiated in recognition of that fact.

Rules 8-1-3, 10-1-3F: Kickoff may now be played in any direction. A goal may not be scored into the kicking teams own goal from a kickoff. These rule changes align NFHS rules with other rule making agencies.

Rule 13-1-2: Clarifies the location of the spot from which the indirect free kick is taken.

Rule 14-1-4: The additional wording clarifies that stutter stepping is allowed.

2017-2018 NFHS MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

Rule 3-3-2: Rule 3.3.3, Situations A through J should become Rule 3.3.2, Situations A through J. Rule 3-3-3, Situations K through P should become Situations A through F.

Rule 4-1-1: Shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) standards at the time of manufacture.

Rule 5-1-3c: Officials shall be dressed alike in the uniforms primarily consisting of predominantly black shoes and black knee socks with white horizontal stripes.

Rule 14-1-3: PENALTY KICK SITUATIONS: (14-1, 14-1-3 and 14-1-4)
Risk Minimization: Concussions continue to be a focus in soccer at all levels of competition. The NFHS has been at the forefront of national sports organizations in emphasizing the importance of concussion education, recognition and proper management.

Discussion of proper concussion management at all levels of play in all sports has led to the adoption of rules changes and concussion-specific policies by multiple athletic organizations, state associations and school districts. Coaches and game officials need to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of concussed athletes so that appropriate steps can be taken to safeguard the health and safety of participants.

There continues to be concern from the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) about the cumulative effects of non-concussive blows to the head and body in practice and games. Research data is showing that there are significant impacts to the head when athletes are constantly “heading” the ball and in “free ball” situations where multiple players are positioning for control of the ball.

**SHINGUARDS** - Shinguards are one part of several required pieces of soccer equipment. Coaches need to make sure to follow the requirements for properly fitting. Verifying that the shinguards are not altered by the athlete, are worn under the sock, and are worn with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle. More importantly, the shinguard is required to be age- and size-appropriate. Coaches need to make sure that the required shinguard properly fits the respective player based on his/her age and size.

**HEADGEAR** - Though not required equipment, soft-padded headgear is allowed to be used by any soccer player. The SMAC emphasizes that there is no research or data available that shows that wearing soft-padded headgear prevents or lessens the possibility of a concussion. The determination regarding wearing soft-padded headgear is entirely up to the individual or school district. Schools, parents and students are free to make their own assessments relative to this piece of equipment. The relevant ASTM standard can be found at www.astm.org/Standards/F2439.htm.

**Referee Communication and Teamwork**: Active and effective communication among referees and with coaches and team captains is critical to ensure successful game management. Conducting a meaningful and thorough pre-game with the head coach, captains, and referee crew provides an opportunity to review important rule changes, ensure players are legally and properly equipped, discourage rough play and emphasize a zero tolerance for the use of offensive or abusive language or gestures. Advancements in electronic communication devices will afford opportunities to improve communication among referees during the run of play.

**Restarts**: KICKOFF - At the kickoff, the ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground in the center of the field of play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves in any direction.

PENALTY KICK - Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not stop his/her movement. A stutter step is permitted, however, continuous movement toward the ball is required.

LOCATION OF OFFSIDE RESTART - Indirect free kicks for offside are taken from the spot where the offending player interfered with play, interfered with an opponent or gained advantage by being in that position.

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**Emergency Action Plans for Officials Chapters**

Officials’ chapter officers should be aware of emergency exits, AED devices, and other emergency items in the event a chapter member needs medical assistance or emergency action needs to be taken during a chapter or mandatory rules meeting.

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**ARRIVAL AT THE SITE**

Cooperation with Contest management begins with timely arrival at the Contest site. Nothing makes administrators and coaches more nervous at the onset of a contest than not knowing whether the officials are going to show up.

Start the game off right by communicating you arrival time at the site with the athletic administrator. Show up, where possible, at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff. It will go a long way in helping your credibility as a quality official.
Adopt the 2017-2018 NFHS Soccer Rules Book and continue to utilize the pre-2011-2012 NFHS Official Soccer Signals.

Modify Rule 3-3-1c3 (Concussion Rule), to clarify that “an appropriate health-care professional” is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO). A cautioned player may return to the field as a substitute, following the 5-minute playing time sit out period.

Modify Rule 5-1-1, to use either a head referee and a referee or a center referee and two side referees.

Modify Rule 5-1-1 NOTE, to use either the dual or the double-dual officiating system.

Adopt Rule 7-1-1, length of periods, play two equal halves of forty minutes at the senior high school level (varsity and junior varsity) of competition.

Adopt Rule 7-1-3, if less than one-half of the Contest has been played, restart from the suspension of play.

Adopt Rule 7-1-5, running clock after goals, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, when one Team gains a 7-goal differential over its opponent.

Adopt Rule 7-3-1, tie Contests, as follows: Senior high school varsity soccer Regular Season Contests which are tied at the end of eighty minutes of play shall be resolved by playing no more than two “sudden victory” overtime periods not to exceed ten minutes each.

Modify the Sample Tournament Progression for senior high school varsity soccer Regular Season Tournaments and Postseason Contests, as set forth in the NFHS Soccer Rules Book, to provide for no more than two "sudden victory" overtime periods not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes each. If the score remains tied, proceed to the penalty kick procedure.

Modify Rule 12-8-1 PENALTY, to provide for a 5-minute playing time sit out following the issuance of a yellow card to a player, with the opportunity for that player’s Team to substitute for that player.

PIAA Championship (Finals) Contests which are tied at the end of 80 minutes of play shall be resolved by playing no more than two sudden victory overtime periods not to exceed 20 minutes each. If the score remains tied, proceed to the penalty kick procedure.

### OFFICIALS’ UNIFORM

1. The PIAA Official's Emblem must be worn on the upper left sleeve of the official's standard shirt when officiating in all PIAA sponsored games.

2. All PIAA-registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest.

3. Required uniform for soccer officials:
   - **Shirt:** Long or short sleeved alternating black and white 1-inch vertically striped shirt with a black collar or solid black shirt with white collar.
   - **Shorts:** Black (long trousers, culottes or skirt may also be worn).
   - **Stockings:** Long black with three white strips at the top.
   - **Shoes:** SOLID BLACK with black laces.
   - **Cap:** Solid Black

The wearing of jewelry (except wedding bands and medical-alert bracelets) and wrist watches (except as a required timing device) is prohibited. Smoking and/or tobacco chewing is prohibited (Minutes, Board of Control, PIAA Summer Workshop, July 17, 1989, p. 3).

PIAA sports' officials may display an American flag (maximum size 2 by 3 inches) on the right sleeve of their uniform shirt approximately three inches down from the shoulder seam. This will be the same position the PIAA official patch is displayed on the left sleeve.

#### Communication Devices

**Rule 5-1-3f:** Electronic communication devices may be used by officials to communicate during contests beginning this year (2017-2018).
POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF EYE SHADE

The use of eye shade must be worn as a single, solid stroke under the eye. There shall be no numbers, words, logos, symbols or other detail located in the eye shade. The eye shade shall not extend below the cheek bone and extend no further than the width of the eye socket. Players having eye shade that does not meet the standard are to remove it or comply with the PIAA interpretation before participation in the game. If the players do not comply, the officials may impose unsportsmanlike conduct type penalties as determined by their respective rules code.

PIAA CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR ALL SPORTS

PIAA has a written policy regarding conflict of interest. This policy is in all of our post regular season officiating contracts and is contained in the PIAA Athletic Officials’ Manual for all officials to view.

An official will remove themselves from a contest if they find that they have any personal association with any of the competitors or coaches on any team, with the competitors' school, or with the competitors' community, such as being a relative of a competitor, or being an employee or a relative of a competitor in the competitors school district, or a resident of the competitors' community.

COMMENT: Officials accepting assignments for contest at their local school where they live, or have a relative competing, place themselves in a compromising position in the performance of their duties as a registered official. Every decision and judgment is open to criticism and places the official in a compromising position where it brings into question the integrity and actions of the official. This is an indefensible position for the official and assignments of this nature are not to be taken or accepted by PIAA registered sports' officials. Extreme cases of emergency and situations that may be completely unavoidable are the only exceptions to this policy.

PIAA 2017 SOCCER SCHEDULE

First Practice Date.................................................................Monday, August 14
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date......................................................Saturday, August 19
First Regular Season Play Date.............................................................Friday, September 1
Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Championship Deadline ............... Saturday, November 4
PIAA Soccer Championships:
  First Round..............................................................................Tuesday, November 7
  Quarterfinals...........................................................................Saturday, November 11
  Semi-Finals ............................................................................Tuesday, November 14
PIAA Soccer Championships:
  HERSHEY PARK Stadium, Hershey, PA.................................Friday, November 17 & Saturday, November 18
TIE BREAKING AND END OF GAME PROCEDURES

**Rule 7-3-1: REGULAR SEASON VARSITY MATCHES:** Senior high school varsity soccer Regular Season Contests which are tied at the end of eighty minutes of play shall be resolved by playing no more than two "sudden victory" overtime periods not to exceed ten minutes each. If the score still remains tied at the end of two “sudden victory” overtimes, the tie stands.

**REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE:** The procedure for advancing a senior high school varsity soccer team during a regular season or postseason tournament shall be resolved by playing two “sudden victory” overtime periods not to exceed 15 minutes each. If the score remains tied, proceed to penalty kicks. A winner must be determined in all regular season and postseason tournament play. NOTE: For PIAA Championship (Final) games only, the “sudden victory” overtime periods shall be 20 minutes.

**ADDITIONAL ADOPTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS**

**Rule 5-1-1 Note:** PIAA member school games may be officiated by using only the dual or double-dual officiating systems. The diagonal system is not permitted for PIAA member school games.

**Rules 6-2-1 and 6-3-1:** The official time/score is to be kept by the scorer at the scoring table or on the scoreboard/clock. Official time is not to be kept by the on field officials.

**Rules 7-1-1 and 7-1-2:** PIAA member school games are to be played in two equal halves of 40 minutes for senior high competition and two equal halves of 30 minutes for junior high competition. The halves may be shortened by mutual agreement of coaches and the referee.

**Rule 7-1-3:** Suspended game. Re-start at point of suspension if less than one half is played. If more than one-half is played and if a winner is determined, it is an official game and the result stands. If a winner cannot be determined, the game is resumed from the point of suspension.

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**PLAY RULINGS**

The situations contained in the NFHS Soccer Rules Book have been developed from actual questions which have been raised in administering the many thousands of interscholastic soccer games each year. The situations have been arranged by rule number.

All interpretations have the approval of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee, which consists of coaches, officials and athletic administrators active on the high school level. Each ruling has been given careful study and is intended to provide for fair, easily administered competition.

If there is need for additional interpretations, they may be received by contacting your chapter or district interpreters. In case of doubt, please contact our statewide rule interpreter or the PIAA Office.

**POLICY REGARDING THE WEARING OF AN AMERICAN FLAG AND EITHER A COMMEMORATIVE PATCH OR A MEMORIAL INSIGNIA ON CONTEST JERSEY/SHIRT/TOP**

An American Flag, not to exceed 2 by 3 inches, and either a commemorative patch or a memorial insignia, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on a Contest jersey/shirt/top provided neither the flag nor the patch or the insignia interferes with the visibility of the number.
PIAA BY-LAWS: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

Any coach and/or contestant who, while coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition. For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating in the first Contest(s) in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, at any PIAA member school or, if the student changes levels of competition, such as from junior varsity to varsity, the first Contest(s) in that sport.

The official shall file a report with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

In soccer, the athletic director and principal must meet with the ejected coach/contestant and detail in a report what corrective action has been taken. This report then must be signed by all parties and sent to the district soccer chairperson. This form is located on the PIAA website on the soccer page.

When a coach or contestant is disqualified/ejected from a Regular or Post-Regular Season Contest a report must be filed by the official who disqualified/ejected the coach or contestant. When the report is received in the PIAA Office it is faxed to the concerned school Principal and Athletic Director and mailed to the respective District Chairmen, officials' representatives and sportsmanship chair. A copy is also given to the Associate Executive Director and placed in the school's file.

OFFICIALS ARE TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE PIAA OFFICE ON THE APPROPRIATE FORM WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE EJECTION OR THEY MAY BE PLACED ON PROBATION.

Officials must complete the disqualification form online through the officials’ information area of the PIAA website. Officials who repeatedly do not file the proper form in the prescribed time period may be suspended.

If you are in need of updating your officiating supplies, please be reminded that Officially Sports is the official vendor of PIAA Sport Officials’ Uniforms. Please give them your consideration for any purchases regarding officials’ supplies. If interested, you may provide them with your email address to send you their catalog, seasonal specials and discounted items that may be of interest and service to your avocation of sports’ officiating. Officially Sports may be contacted via email at sales@officiallysports.com, by calling 800-934-4555 or at www.officiallysports.com.
### EXAMPLES OF DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION OF ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

The following examples are for players or coaches and are only examples and not a complete list. What this means is a player or coach ejected from a contest at any level must sit out the remainder of the day and the next day of the next contest at that level.

**Example #1:** Player/coach gets ejected from a junior varsity contest before a varsity contest. This player/coach is disqualified for the remainder of the day and the next day of the next junior varsity contest. If this contest is followed by a varsity contest on the same day, the player/coach gets disqualified for the varsity contest also (the whole day).

**Example #2:** Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity contest on Friday, the team's next varsity contest is Friday. Before the varsity contest is a scheduled junior varsity contest, player/coach cannot participate in any of Friday contests.

**Example #3:** Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity soccer game Saturday. The next varsity contest is a game on next Friday but the game gets postponed to Saturday. On Saturday, the junior varsity team is to play in another soccer game, is player and/or coach eligible to participate in the junior varsity game?

**Ruling:** No. Since the Friday contest was postponed the next varsity game is the same day as the junior varsity game and the player/coach are not eligible to participate the whole day.

### SECTION 4 VIOLATION OR CANCELLATION OF SPORTS OFFICIAL’S CONTRACT BY A PIAA MEMBER SCHOOL

If a PIAA member school violates or cancels a contract with an official, the District Committee or the Board of Directors, in their respective jurisdictions, may require a school so violating or so canceling to pay to the offended official the fee or fees for the Contest or Contests which have been provided in the official contract. Failure of a PIAA member school to live up to the terms of the contract shall be considered a violation of the Constitution and By-Laws of PIAA.

**Comment:** It has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions that officials have lost assignments or games because a school or assignor has “double booked” the contest. Officials are reminded that unless there is a written contract executed between the parties, they have no claim to any type of reimbursement from the offending school(s). Many schools have made a “good faith” effort to the officials to get them an additional assignment in the future or offer a scrimmage to pick up the lost fees. However, officially, without a written, signed, properly executed contract between the official(s) and the school(s), there is no recourse for the officials. In this day of technology it is not very hard for assignors, or schools, to execute these contracts. This is part of an assignor’s responsibility. Officials should request contracts from their assignors or schools for both parties protection.

### PIAA BY-LAWS, ARTICLE XV; SECTION 3

**Requirement of Written Contract**

All PIAA member schools shall enter into either paper or electronic contracts on the official contract form entitled “Contract for Officials Under PIAA Rules” with all registered sports officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor. Disputes arising from oral agreements will not be considered by PIAA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE</th>
<th>GUIDE LINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the 2017-2018 school year, American Specialty Insurance Services will provide the following benefits:</td>
<td>These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• One Million Dollars of Liability Coverage;</td>
<td>Proactive Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $25,000 Excess Accident Medical Coverage (with a $250 deductible);</td>
<td>1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• $5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (including a cardiac benefit).</td>
<td>2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.</td>
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<td>This program is administered by American Specialty Insurance Services and underwritten by USF&amp;G and Mutual of Omaha. Both carriers carry &quot;A&quot; ratings by A.M. Best. Again this year, as a new service for chapters, all regularly scheduled chapter meetings will be covered under PIAA’s basic liability coverage. This is a major change from the past when only the annual rules interpretation meetings have been covered. Chapters are requested to please submit their list of regularly scheduled chapter meetings to the PIAA Office to assist procedurally in the exchange of information to have all local associations’ meetings covered.</td>
<td>3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact information is as follows:</td>
<td>• When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for 30 minutes and take shelter immediately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew Smith,</td>
<td>• Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President for Client Services</td>
<td>• Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Douglass, Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>4. Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Specialty Insurances Services, Inc.</td>
<td>5. Inform student-athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142 N. Main Street,</td>
<td>As copied from the NFHS 2017-18 Soccer Rules Book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 309</td>
<td>Officials should confer with onsite staff and use all available resources when making a decision with regard to lightning. Officials are the sole authority with regard to contest completion related to weather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke, Indiana 46783-0309</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 260-672-8800</td>
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<td>Fax: 260-673-1295</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.amerspec.com">www.amerspec.com</a></td>
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PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

PIAA requires all registered sports’ officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today’s contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the official(s) that your contestants will be legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions at the kickoff. Good luck in today’s contest.

There have been some concerns addressed by the schools that some of our officials are not reading the PIAA Sportsmanship message prior to the contest. Officials are not to paraphrase, modify, or develop their own Sportsmanship Message to the captains and head coaches. For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials' 2016-17 identification cards.

This message MUST BE READ VERBATIM by the contest officials. Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Soccer Rules. The reading of this message will set the tone for the contest to be played in the spirit of good sportsmanship and have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.

Concussion Information

- It's not surprising that a study revealed that player-to-player contact is the most frequent injury mechanism leading to concussions. See: http://www.usnews.com/news/sports/articles/2015/07/13/rough-play-is-riskier-than-heading-in-youth-soccer-study
- There are rules in place to help reduce such contact. Active enforcement of pertinent provisions of Rule 12: Fouls and Misconduct, can help minimize the incidence of such concussions. The following is a list of notable sections under Rule 12:
  1. Rule 12, Section 1, Article 1—A player shall not .... jump at an opponent.
  2. Rule 12, Section 4, Article 1—A player shall be penalized for charging an opponent in a dangerous or reckless manner, or using excessive force.
  3. Rule 12, Section 6—A player shall not participate in dangerous play, which is an act an official considers likely to cause injury to another player.
  4. Rule 12, Section 8, Article 1(f)(10)—A player .... shall be cautioned (yellow card) for (f) unsporting conduct, including, but not limited to: (10) [a] player who displays reckless play.
  5. Rule 12, Section 8, Article 2(a) and (d)—A player .... shall be disqualified (red card) for (a) exhibiting violent conduct [or] (d) committing serious foul play.
- The NFHS, PIAA, and the statewide rules interpreter encourage you to keep the elements of Rule 12 and its various provisions relating to player-to-player contact in mind as you officiate. Emphasizing these provisions will help control aggressive or unsportsmanlike player-to-player contact and as a result, help minimize the incidence of concussions in high school soccer.
### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND SKIN INFECTION PROCEDURES

Proper precautions are needed to minimize the potential risk of the spread of communicable disease and skin infections during athletic competition. These conditions include skin infections that occur due to skin contact with competitors and equipment. The transmission of infections such as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Herpes Gladiatorium, blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B, and other infectious diseases such as Influenza can often be greatly reduced through proper hygiene. The NFHS SMAC has outlined and listed below some general guidelines for the prevention of the spread of these diseases.

### BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

**Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these agents include following Universal Precautions such as:**

- An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the activity (game or practice) until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to activity.
- Athletic trainers or other caregivers need to wear gloves and take other precautions to prevent blood or body fluid-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- In the event of a blood or body fluid-splash, immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves when cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

### INFECTIOUS SKIN DISEASES

**Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these infectious agents include:**

- Athletes must be told to notify a parent or guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any skin lesion prior to any competition or practice. An appropriate health-care professional should evaluate any skin lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, all team members should be evaluated to help prevent the potential spread of infection.
- Coaches, officials and appropriate health-care professionals must follow NFHS or state/local guidelines on “time until return to competition.” Participation with a covered lesion may be considered if in accordance with NFHS, state or lock guidelines and the lesion is no longer contagious.

### OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

**Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:**

- Appropriate vaccination of athletes, coaches and staff as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- During time of outbreaks, follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as State and local Health Departments.
- For more detailed information, refer to the Infectious Disease and Blood-borne Pathogens” and “Skin Disorders” sections contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.
NFHS OFFICIAL SOCCER SIGNALS

Although NFHS has authorized different officials signals, PIAA will continue to use the following in ALL matches:

Direct Free Kick
1. Direct free kick (points in direction of kick)
2. Kicking
3. Tripping
4. Holding

Indirect Free Kick
5. Handling
6. Pushing
7. Striking (back and forth)
8. Jumping at
9. Reckless or dangerous charging

General
10. Far
11. Middle
12. Near
13. Indirect free kick
14. Offside
15. Goalkeeper violation or second touching
16. Play On
17. Dead Ball
18. Timeout (Wind-up to start clock)
19. Penalty Kick (point to spot), Goal Kick (point to goal area)
20. Goal
21. No Goal
22. Caution/ejection
23. Corner Kick (point to spot)
**SOCcer Player, Coach, or Team Personnel Disqualification Form**

During the PIAA Soccer Regular Season and Postseason, a disqualified soccer player, coach, and/or Team personnel shall not be permitted to participate for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the player, coach, and/or Team personnel was previously disqualified. For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s), in accordance with Article XIII, Section 8 of the PIAA By-Laws and NFHS Soccer Rules 12-8-(1-3), and 18-1-1v. The referee must complete this form on-line, as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the completion of the Contest in which the disqualification took place. This form can be found at www.piaa.org under the Officials Section – Officials’ Forms category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Ejected Player, Coach or Bench Personnel</th>
<th>School Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Contest</td>
<td>Location of Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time of Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Team’s Final Score</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Team’s Final Score</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of Official Who Ejected Player, Coach or Bench Personnel</td>
<td>Level of Competition</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Reason for Disqualification**

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Date of Report | Official’s Name (Person Issuing DQ) | PIAA District

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**SAMPLE**