### 2019-20 NFHS Soccer Rules Changes

#### 3-4-3: The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned on the field in the final five minutes of the second period only.

#### 4-3 (Improperly Equipped Players): Allows a player, who is improperly equipped, to correct the issue immediately or to be removed from the contest and legally replaced. The team does not have to play short-handed unless it is the choice of the coach.

#### 5-3-1d: Permits the use of one or both arms to indicate “Play-on.”

#### 7-4-3: Stops the clock during the last five minutes of the second period or overtime when the team in the lead substitutes.

#### 9-2-1c: Allows for a restart of the game with a drop ball following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation and the goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball.

#### 9-2-3: Clarifies that any number of players may contest a dropped ball and that the referee may not decide who should contest the dropped ball.

#### 9-2-5: Clarifies that a dropped ball shall be dropped again if it touches a player before it touches the ground or leaves the field of play after it touches the ground without touching a player.

#### 9-2-6: Clarifies that if a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick if it enters the opponent’s goal or a corner kick if it enters the team’s own goal.

#### 9-3: Clarifies that in the case of a temporary suspension due to injury or any unusual situation, the game shall be restarted by a dropped ball at the point of interruption.
3-4-3: This change helps to prevent time-wasting tactics and was dictated by the change in Rule 7-4-3.

4-3: In the case of improper equipment, the offending player was previously required to leave the field and could not be replaced. Further, he/she could not be replaced or come back onto the field of play until the next opportunity to substitute. With this change, the offending player now has the opportunity to immediately correct the issue without having to leave the field. If this is not possible, that player must still leave the field, but he or she may be replaced. If the team chooses to play short (instead of replacing), the offending player may re-enter the game at the next stoppage so long as the player has reported to an official who will ensure the issue has been corrected.

5-3-1-d: This rule change allows officials to use either one arm or both to signal advantage during the game.

7-4-3: This change helps prevent potential time-wasting tactics utilized at the end of the game. The clock will now be stopped in the last five minutes of the game any time the team in the lead makes a substitution.

9-2-1: In situations where the play is temporarily suspended for an injury or unusual situation, play will now be resumed with a drop ball unless the goalkeeper was in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage. This change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick to a team and prevents an otherwise undeserved potential goal-scoring opportunity.

9-2-3: This change clarifies the procedure followed when resuming play through a dropped ball. It allows any number of players to take part in the dropped ball (including only one player) and specifically states the referee cannot decide who may take part in the dropped ball.

9-2-5: The dropped ball is repeated if it touches a player before it reaches the ground or leaves the field of play after it touches the ground without touching a player. The rule helps to ensure equity.

9-2-6: A goal may no longer be scored directly from a dropped ball until at least two players touch the ball. This change helps ensure equity when resuming play through the use of a dropped ball.

9-3: Consistent with changes made in Rule 9-2, this change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick when play is temporarily suspended due to an injury or other unusual situation. The only exception to this is when the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage.
Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Injury Prevention

Injuries to the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) are devastating to athletes at all levels of competition. An ACL tear requires surgery and results in six to 12 months of rehabilitation before return to sports. It also increases the risk of future knee osteoarthritis. The majority of ACL tears are noncontact injuries, occurring while cutting, pivoting or landing from a jump. The remainder of the injuries result from a direct blow to the knee or leg.

ACL injuries are more common in girls soccer than any other high school sport. In soccer, girls are three times more likely to tear their ACL than boys. Boys soccer has the highest rate of ACL injuries of all non-collision boys sports.

Given the significant short-term and long-term consequences of ACL injuries, a great deal of research has focused on strategies for injury prevention. Protective bracing does not minimize the risk of injury. In fact, there are no studies showing that “contact” ACL injuries can be prevented. However, noncontact injuries, the ones that result from cutting, pivoting or jumping, can be minimized through the use of specific neuromuscular training programs.

The goal of such training programs is to teach athletes proper body mechanics in jumping, landing and running. Through a series of warm-up drills, athletes can improve physical skills and decrease the risk of a noncontact ACL injury. The NFHS is now offering a free online course on “ACL Injury Prevention” through NFHSLearn at https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61163/acl-injury-prevention. The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) strongly supports the implementation of this course in high school and middle school soccer programs in effort to decrease the risk of serious knee injuries.

Pre-game Communication Between the School Administration and Game Officials

An authorized representative of the host school shall greet the officials upon their arrival. The host school principal, principal’s designee or game administrator must indicate to the head official or center referee his/her location if a situation develops where his/her assistance is needed during a contest. The contest coaches should not serve as the principal’s designee or game administrator. The expectation is that the principal’s designee or game administrator will take positive action to maintain an atmosphere of good sportsmanship within the spectator seating area.

Officials Communicating Misconduct with Coaches

NFHS Rule 5-3 states that game officials shall communicate the nature of misconduct to coaches, the scorer and other officials when a player has been cautioned or disqualified (yellow/red card). This communication is a notification and not an explanation. It is not intended to be an opportunity for the coach to discuss or argue the call. It is, however, an educational opportunity for the coach to address and/or correct the behavior of the individual. It is important to note that interscholastic athletics is an extension of the classroom, and the behavior of all involved should reflect such. Coaches and officials are expected to model good sportsmanship and to uphold the honor and dignity of their profession. This includes all interactions with student-athletes, other coaches and officials, school administration and spectators.

MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

4-2-6: Clarifies that the wearing of a cochlear implant is legal provided the device does not create the threat of injury.
2019-20 PIAA Adoptions & Modifications

- Adopt the 2019-2020 NFHS Soccer Rules Book and continue to utilize the pre-2011-2012 NFHS Official Soccer Signals.

- Modify Rule 4-2-10 to permit the wearing of religious headwear without authorization provided it is not abrasive, hard, or dangerous to the participant and any other player and must be attached in such a way it is highly unlikely to come off during play.

- 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, except for injuries, or as determined by the official, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, when one Team gains a 6-goal differential over its opponent during the second half.

- Adopt Rule 7-3-1, tie Games, as follows: Senior high school varsity soccer Regular Season 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 of ten minutes each; (overtime periods may not be shortened by mutual consent).

- Modify the Sample Tie Breaking Procedure 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 of 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 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 of 20-minutes each. If the score remains tied, proceed to the penalty kick procedure.

PIAA Points of Emphasis

Language and Dissent

Foul and abusive language and dissent by coaches and players account for the majority of the disqualifications again this year in soccer. Officials should address this at the coaches and captains pregame meeting and remind them that language and dissent will be dealt with accordingly. Officials should not confuse this with communication with the coaches and players. Coaches and players have a right to ask questions in a respectful manner during the match. However, inappropriate language and dissent must be dealt with immediately. Let the temperature of the match and time/place/manner dictate how to effectively deal with these two issues.
Reckless and Serious Foul Play

Soccer is a contact sport and as such officials must be prepared to effectively manage the flow and intensity of the game. Understanding the differences between fair and hard play and a foul that is either Reckless or Serious is important to ensuring fair play and the safety of the players. Reckless play is defined as “a player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.” Serious Foul Play is defined as “any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball.” It is critical that officials recognize the differences between the two and the corresponding penalty. Although officials cannot eliminate a player from engaging in reckless or serious foul play, there are Preventive mechanics that can be used to control this type of play from occurring during the match by:

- Addressing fair play and good sportsmanship during the pregame meeting with the coaches and captains. Let them know your expectations for competitive and fair play.

- Talk to the players and captains during the match. When the intensity of play increases and fouls become more prevalent remind the players of your expectations. Control the temperature of play by warning, whistle and when necessary cards.

- Deal with reckless of serious foul play immediately. Be sure to let the players and coaches know that you will not tolerate that level of play during the match. When warranted use cards to address these behaviors.

- Use of Headsets. Officials who have used headsets in communicate between and among the crew have found this to be an effective tool in helping to control play and deal immediately with unsporting and dangerous play.
### 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.

### 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 your 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.

### 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 pro style black shirt. All officials must dress alike.
   - **Shorts** - Black (long trousers, culottes or skirt may also be worn).
   - **Stockings** - Long black with three white stripes at the top.
   - **Shoes** - Solid Black or Black with white accents with black laces. White soles around the shoe are not considered an accent mark.

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.
PIAA Approved Officials Jerseys

**Shirt:** Long or short sleeved alternating black and white 1-inch vertically striped shirt with a black collar or pro style black shirt. All officials must dress alike.
PIAA Approved Officials Footwear

**LEGAL**

Shoes - Solid Black or Black with white accents with black laces. White soles around the shoe are not considered an accent mark.

**ILLLEGAL**
# 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.

# 2019-20 SOCCER SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Practice Date</td>
<td>Monday, August 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date</td>
<td>Saturday, August 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Regular Season Play Date</td>
<td>Friday, August 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Regular Season Contest Date</td>
<td>Saturday, November 2</td>
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<td>PIAA Soccer Championships:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Round</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarterfinals</td>
<td>Saturday, November 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-Finals</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIAA Soccer Championships - Hersheypark Stadium, Hershey</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2A &amp; 4A Boys &amp; Girls</td>
<td>Friday, November 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A &amp; 3A Boys &amp; Girls</td>
<td>Saturday, November 16</td>
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## 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 80 minutes of play shall be resolved by playing no more than two "sudden victory" overtime periods of ten minutes each; (overtime periods may not be shortened by mutual consent).

### 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.

### 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.

[www.piaa.org/officials](http://www.piaa.org/officials)
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.

www.officiallysports.com
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 gets 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.
### District Soccer Interpreters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>Gerry Blasé</td>
<td><a href="mailto:g_blas@verizon.net">g_blas@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>Thomas Ames</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Arnie Fritzius</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>Mark Marinucci</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmuncci@comcast.net">mmuncci@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>Robert E. Lasagna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rlasagna@hotmail.com">rlasagna@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>Justin R. Fear</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrf281@gmail.com">jrf281@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Patrick L. Cavanaugh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:doc15068@gmail.com">doc15068@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 9</td>
<td>James Thomson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jthomson837@comcast.net">jthomson837@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 10</td>
<td>Allen Sheasley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.sheasley@juno.com">a.sheasley@juno.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>District 11</td>
<td>Adam Smeltz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajsmeltz@psualum.com">ajsmeltz@psualum.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>District 12</td>
<td>Jack Creighton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcreighton@philasd.org">jcreighton@philasd.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 contest official(s) that your contestants are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions.*

*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' 2018-19 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.
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 Gladiatorum, 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**
- Direct free kick (points in direction of kick)
- Handling
- Pushing
- Striking (back and forth)
- Jumping at
- Holding
- Reckless or dangerous charging

**Indirect Free Kick**
- Far
- Middle
- Near
- Goalkeeper violation or second touching
- Dangerous Play
- Obstruction

**General**
- Play On
- Dead Ball
- Timeout
- (Wind-up to start clock)
- Penalty Kick (point to spot), Goal Kick (point to goal area)
- Goal
- No Goal
- Caution/ejection
- Corner Kick (point to spot)
GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING OR THUNDER DISTURBANCES

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and 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 activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

PROACTIVE PLANNING
1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:
   a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
   a. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
   b. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
   c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
   d. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

*—At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.
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>Visiting Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Name of Official Who Ejected Player, Coach or Bench Personnel | Level of Competition

REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

DATE OF REPORT | OFFICIAL’S NAME (PERSON ISSUING DQ) | PIAA DISTRICT