## 2020-21 NFHS Soccer Rules Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-2-4</td>
<td>Clarifies the restart when the ball becomes deflated during play and is subject to the provisions in 9-2-2 and 9-2-3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-1-1a</td>
<td>Removes the requirement for jerseys to be tucked into the shorts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-2-7e, f</td>
<td>Removes the requirement for the mouth guard to not be completely white or completely clear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-1-1b</td>
<td>Clarifies that the ball is out of play when it touches a referee and remains on the field; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-2-1e</td>
<td>Adds the restart of a drop ball when the ball touches an official as per 9-1-1b.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-2-2</td>
<td>Clarifies that the restart to a simultaneous touch that goes out of bounds should be to one person of the team in possession of the ball prior to the simultaneous touch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-2-3</td>
<td>Clarifies that the referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player(s), an outside agent or match official.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-3</td>
<td>Deleted because that information appears in other areas within the rules book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-2-3b</td>
<td>Deleted; information is in another section of the rules book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-3-1</td>
<td>Clarifies that on a free kick, where three or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-3-2</td>
<td>Removed the portion of the rule that required the ball to go beyond the penalty area prior to being in play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-3-4</td>
<td>Emphasizes that the referee is required to signal an indirect kick by raising an arm above the head and keeping it there until the kick is taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of bounds. If the kick was not signaled as indirect and the ball goes directly into the opponent’s goal, the kick shall be retaken.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020-21 RULE CHANGES CONTINUED

14-1-3: Clarifies that the position of the goalkeeper during a penalty kick shall be with at least one foot on or in-line with the goal line and shall not be touching the goal posts, crossbar or nets until the ball is kicked. Lateral or forward movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line with both feet until the ball is in play.

16-1-2: Clarifies that players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

16-1-3: Clarifies that on a goal kick, the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

16-1-4: Clarifies that after the goal kick is properly taken, the ball is in play.

MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

NOTE: Moved all rules referencing junior high/middle school to the high school rules section and label the section as Junior High/Middle School.

12-5-1: Simplifies the definition of obstruction.

12-5-2: Clarification of the style in which the rule was written - A player may legally place himself/herself between opponents and the ball provided the ball is within playing distance. This player may legally be challenged from behind.

12-8-2d(4): Clarifies the language on committing a serious foul play to read a player commits a foul inside the penalty area while not attempting to play the ball, denying the opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, and the referee awards a penalty kick.

2020-21 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

2-2-4: This change in resuming play after a ball becomes deflated during play and was dictated by changes in the drop ball procedure in Rule 9-2.

4-1-1a: Manufacturing of uniforms designed to be worn outside the shorts has become more common, making it difficult for officials to enforce the rule of tucking in the shirt, necessitating a revision.

4-2-7e, f: The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) no longer recommends the mouth protector meet the criteria of not being completely white or completely clear.

9-1-1b: This change prevents situations where one team gains an advantage when the ball touches a referee and remains in play.

9-2-1c, e: This change reiterates the changes made to Rule 9-1-1, clarifying that the game is restarted with a drop ball following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation, or when the ball touches an official.

9-2-3: This change clarifies the procedure followed when restarting play with a drop ball. It ensures that the team in possession when play was stopped, retains possession when play is resumed, with the exception of a drop ball in the penalty area.

9-3: This rule was removed because of redundancy. Refer to Rule 9-2-1c.
2020-21 COMMENTS ON THE RULES CONTINUED

13-2-3b: Consistent with changes made in Rule 9-2-1c. This change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick when play is temporarily suspended due to an injury or other unusual situation.

13-3-1: This change will allow opposing players to enter the penalty area and play the ball once it has been put in play. The ball will no longer need to leave the penalty area before being touched by any player to be considered in play.

13-3-2: This change affirms that the ball does not have to leave the penalty area to be in play, following a free kick.

13-3-4: This rule prevents punishing a team taking an indirect free kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal.

14-1-3: This rule clarifies the goalkeeper’s position during the taking of a penalty kick. This change allows the goalkeeper to make any movement desired, if one foot remains on or in-line with the goal line until the ball is kicked.

16-1-2, 16-1-3, 16-1-4: These changes clarify the procedure for taking a goal kick and designate when the ball is in play.

2020 FALL INTERPRETATION MEETING

The 2020 mandatory fall sport rules interpretation meetings will be available to view on the PIAA website from August 1 - August 28 at no charge. Officials can access the meeting by logging into their PIAA account, and clicking “Make Up Rules Interpretation meeting”. Coaches will find the meeting by logging into their school account. After August 28, the meeting will be available until September 15 at a cost of $50 for officials and $75 for coaches.
Properly Worn Uniforms and Marked Fields

It is important that games are played on fields marked in a consistent manner, and players wear uniforms according to NFHS rules. If a field is improperly marked and/or if a team wears an illegal uniform, the referee shall contact the state association, which will work with school administrators to make appropriate changes. In addition, during pregame communication with school administration, game officials are also encouraged to communicate these corrective actions directly to administrators.

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:

a. 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.

b. talking 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.

c. dealing with reckless or 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.

d. using headsets. Officials who have used headsets in communication 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.

High School Athletics is Education-Based

High school athletics is education-based, and some mechanics of our game are intentionally different from other levels of soccer. The pregame meeting, for example, is a time for officials to communicate expectations to both coaches and captains. This REQUIRED meeting for both head coaches and captains should cover pertinent rules, sportsmanship, the coin toss, and properly and legally equipped players. This meeting is a purposeful start to an education-based interscholastic match.
### 2020-21 PIAA Adoptions & Modifications

- Adopt the 2020-21 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.

- Modify Rule 3-4-3, if Rule 7-1-5 is implemented during the second half (running clock after goals), if the team in the lead substitutes during the last 5 minutes of the half, the clock will not stop and continue to run.

- 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 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 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 two sudden victory overtime periods of 20-minutes each. If the score remains tied, proceed to the penalty kick procedure.
Section 8. Disqualification From Next Contest(s).

A. General Rule. Preamble

Sportsmanship is a core principle in interscholastic athletics. Actions which are unethical and/or intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate or injure opposing contestants, Teams, spectators and/or officials are considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated since they are contrary to the purposes of PIAA and convey lessons incompatible with the reason why high school sports exist.

1. Mandatory Disqualification. One Game Suspension 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 is 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 from which the Coach and/or contestant 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 must direct the Coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

2. Supplemental Disqualification. Two Game Suspension Any Coach and/or contestant who, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official and a component of the ejection is confronting, contacting or addressing a Coach, contestant or official using foul or vulgar language, ethnic or racially insensitive comments or physical contact will be disqualified from competition for the remainder of the day and for the next two (2) Contests including all Contests on the next two (2) Contest days of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the Coach and/or contestant was previously disqualified. For the purposes of this provision, the jurisdiction of the official(s) to apply and enforce this rule begins upon the official’s arrival at the Contest site and ends when the official (or the last of the team of officials) leaves the Contest site. The Contest site is defined as premises on which the competition surface is located and includes the entirety of the premises and parking areas.

When the Supplemental Disqualification implicates a contestant, and in addition to the two (2) Contests disqualification, the contestant may not return to competition representing the contestant’s school until the contestant completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of this program to the student’s Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman. A Coach disqualified under this provision may not return to competition representing the Coach’s school until the Coach completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program and Teaching and Modeling Behavior program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of these two programs to the Coach’s Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman.

A disqualification under B. above supersedes a disqualification under A. above. A PIAA District Committee may, at its discretion, convene a hearing to address any and all disqualifications and may provide additional penalties as warranted by the circumstances.
The Supplemental Ejection is not designed for violations of “Rules of the Game” The one game sit out penalty still remains for those actions that do not fit the Supplemental Ejection policy. PIAA Board of Directors has given officials an additional tool to use, if warranted, to curb bad behavior. This could aid in the recruitment and retention of officials. Officials should not concern themselves with the penalty. School administration will handle that.

A few examples:

- **Situation:** After the basketball game has concluded and the officials are in the locker room, varsity head coach Jones begins to bang on the door and use profanity toward the officials.
  - **Ruling:** The coach’s actions would merit a Supplemental Disqualification. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on Coach Jones who must sit out the next two varsity contests. The crew chief must also make contact with Coach Jones’ athletic director immediately or immediately after leaving the contest site to inform them that the Supplemental Disqualification was issued on Coach Jones.

- **Situation:** During a junior varsity soccer game a player from team ABC commits a handball violation in the box.
  - **Ruling:** The referee properly issues a red card and escorts the player to the sideline. The referee also informs the coach of the reason for ejection. The referee must file the Disqualification Report within 24 hours and the player must sit out the next junior varsity contest. This is a standard one game sit out disqualification penalty.

- **Situation:** In the third inning of a baseball game the head coach disagrees with a safe/out call and charges onto the field while yelling profanities at the umpire.
  - **Ruling:** The umpire must eject the head coach and inform them that they are being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on Coach Smith who must sit out the next two junior varsity contests.

- **Situation:** During the boys varsity soccer match, Player A1 is taken down with a legal tackle by Player B1. Player A1 feels that a foul should have been called and jumps from the ground and yells at the nearest official saying, “Hey Ref, you suck.”
  - **Ruling:** The official must immediately be issued a red card and eject Player A1. The official must then inform Player A1’s head coach of the ejection and the fact that it is a Supplemental Disqualification due to the foul language directed at the official. The ejecting official must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the player who must sit out the next two varsity contests.

- **Situation:** After the volleyball match has concluded and the officials are walking through the school lobby to get to their cars a parent confronts the officials and uses profanity at the umpire.
  - **Ruling:** The officials must not engage the parent in discussion and should continue to their vehicle, if possible. Upon reaching their vehicles the crew chief must immediately contact the host school’s athletic director and inform them of what occurred. The officials do not retain jurisdiction under the Supplemental Disqualification in this instance. It does not apply to fans, only coaches and contest-ants. School athletic administrators must take action to prevent this type of occurrence in the future.

- **Situation:** After the varsity football game has ended and the officials are gathering at the 40 yard line to proceed to the locker room, the head coach rushes on to the field and confronts the crew about calls made that evening. The coach while using foul and abusive language contacts one of the officials.
  - **Ruling:** The crew chief must inform the head coach that he is being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification for his actions. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the head coach who must sit out the next two varsity contests.

**Final Point:**

- **Question:** On the new 2 game DQ is it going to be the officials’ decision if it’s a 2 game DQ or the PIAA’s after reviewing the report?
  - **Answer:** As with the previous 1 game DQ, it is always the decision of the official to eject but the actions of the player or coach will be the deciding factor whether the Supplemental DQ is used.

  - The official really has no decision to make. If the actions are what is listed in the Supplemental Disqualification then the penalty is 2 games, the decision will be made for them by the actions of the offender.
  - The official will not have the ability to choose between the two different disqualifications. The choice will be made for them.
## 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, including e-cigarettes and any type of vaping product, and/or tobacco chewing is prohibited. Obviously, use of alcoholic beverages prior to game assignments is prohibited.

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.

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

**2020-21 SOCCER SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Practice Date</td>
<td>Monday, August 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date</td>
<td>Saturday, August 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Regular Season Play Date</td>
<td>Friday, September 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Championship Deadline</td>
<td>Saturday, November 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIAA Soccer Championships:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Round</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterfinals</td>
<td>Saturday, November 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Finals</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIAA Soccer Championships - Hersheypark Stadium, Hershey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A &amp; 3A Boys &amp; Girls</td>
<td>Friday, November 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A &amp; 4A Boys &amp; Girls</td>
<td>Saturday, November 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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
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, within 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. The failure of a PIAA member school to live up to the terms of the contract is 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.

RECOMENDATION OF A WRITTEN CONTRACT

PIAA member schools should enter into written (paper or electronic) contracts with the officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor to officiate regular season contests. The terms of such contracts must not violate the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws, Policies and Procedures and Rules and Regulations. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor.

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
## 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>
<td><a href="mailto:amesy6@comcast.net">amesy6@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>Arnie Fritzius</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fritziusa@rlasd.net">fritziusa@rlasd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<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>Dr. Stan Latta</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sxl1@psu.edu">sxl1@psu.edu</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 11</td>
<td>Adam Smeltz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajsmeltz@psualum.com">ajsmeltz@psualum.com</a></td>
</tr>
<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

**This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.**

**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.**

The proper procedure is head coaches and captains MUST attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message. 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 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 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.

### NFHS Rule Changes

Please use the link below to access the 2020-2021 Soccer Rules Changes Presented By NFHS and NISOA.

[2020-21 NFHS Soccer Rule Changes](#)

### 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.
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
- Reckless or dangerous charging

Indirect Free Kick
- Indirect free kick
- Offside
- 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.

Revised and Approved March 2018
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 must direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s), in accordance with Article XIII, Section 8 of the PIAA By-Laws. In addition, NFHS Soccer Rules 12-8-(1-3) may also apply. The ejecting official 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.

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

REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION

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