



2024-25 NFHS Soccer Rules PowerPoint

RULES CHANGES



PLAY.
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REQUIRED UNIFORM

4-1-4d



If tape or a similar material (stays/straps) is applied externally to the socks **above the ankle**, it shall be a similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied.

Below the ankle, tape or similar material may be any color.



Rationale: Athletes have the flexibility to modify socks within the existing regulations. Frequently, they remove the foot of one sock to layer another underneath, enhancing comfort or grip inside their shoes and fastening the top sock around the ankle. Any tape or similar material used above the ankle must match the sock's color, while at or below the ankle, any color is allowed. Referees are no longer required to oversee socks below the ankle.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT RULE 12

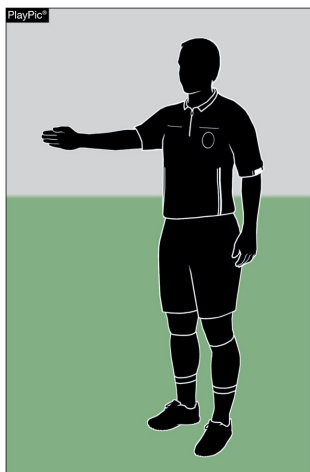


The rule on Fouls and Misconduct has been revised to eliminate duplicate language and improve usability. Sections have been rearranged to enhance ease of reference. Red card offenses have been ordered by relative level of severity.

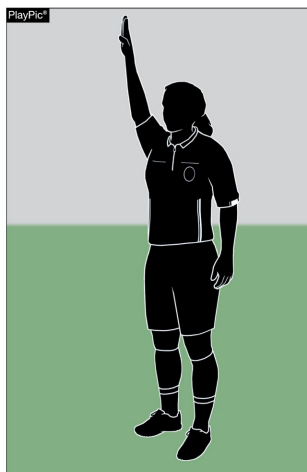
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Rationale: The Fouls and Misconduct rule has been revised to eliminate duplicate language and improve usability. The main changes involve reorganizing the existing rule for clarity. Sections have been rearranged to enhance ease of reference, and a new section addressing Stopping a Promising Attack (SPA) has been included. Certain general language in the rule has been modified to align with other rules codes. Section 6, Ejections, provides an ordered list of offenses by severity to allow associations more flexibility for determining post-game sanctions for misconduct. Additionally, an article has been added to clarify that all necessary conditions must be met for DOGSO (Denial of an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity) to be applicable.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT RULE 12



DIRECT FREE KICK



INDIRECT FREE KICK

Direct and Indirect free kick fouls have their own sections now in the rules.

Rationale: Breaking the Direct and indirect Fouls into separate sections enhances ease of reference and logically groups fouls with similar characteristics.

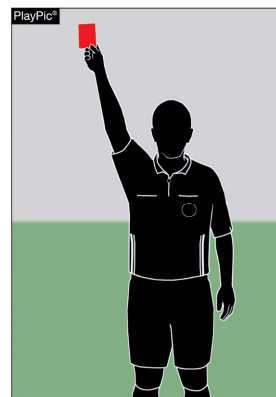
FOULS AND MISCONDUCT RULE 12

Terminology Changes

Wording was updated
to reflect national
terminology.



The term “obstruction” has been replaced by the term “impeding.”

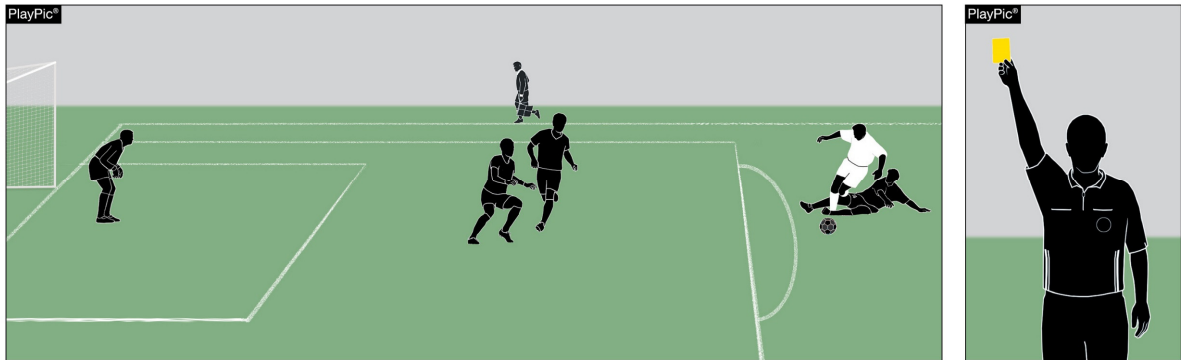


The term “disqualification” has been replaced by the term “ejection.”



Rationale: General language has been modified to align with other rules codes for officials working at different levels.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT RULE 12



Rule 12 now includes the criteria for Stopping a Promising Attack (SPA) in Section 8.



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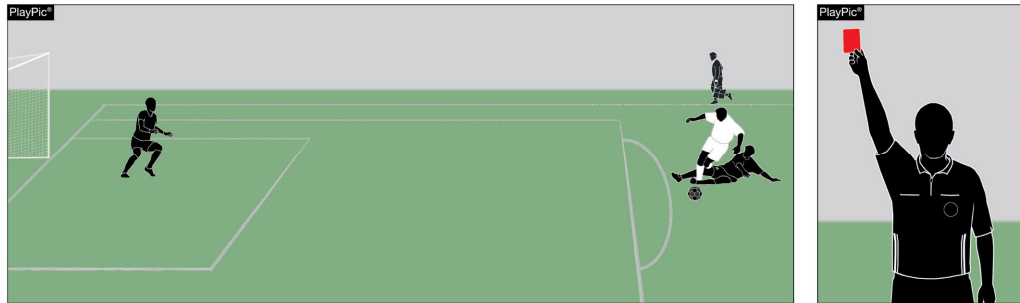
Rationale: A new section addressing the considerations for a promising attack serves as a crucial clarification in the rules, specifically addressing what was previously referred to as “tactical fouls”.

While the considerations are clear for obvious goal-scoring opportunities, promising attacks may be more difficult to recognize.

The new section assists officials in identifying plays where an attacking opportunity with clear potential has been halted through a foul.

Slide Note: One of the DOGSO criteria is missing in this PlayPic. There are too many defenders between the careless foul and the goal. While the offender has not denied an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, they should be cautioned for stopping a promising attack.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT RULE 12



Article 4 in 12-8 provides guidance that all elements must be satisfied for obvious goal-scoring opportunities:

- Distance between the offense and the goal,
- General direction of play,
- Likelihood of keeping control of the ball,
- Location and number of defenders.



Rationale: An article was added to clarify that all necessary conditions must be met for DOGSO to be applicable.

Slide Note: Unlike the previous slide, this PlayPic shows all four considerations are met and warrant the offender's ejection for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity



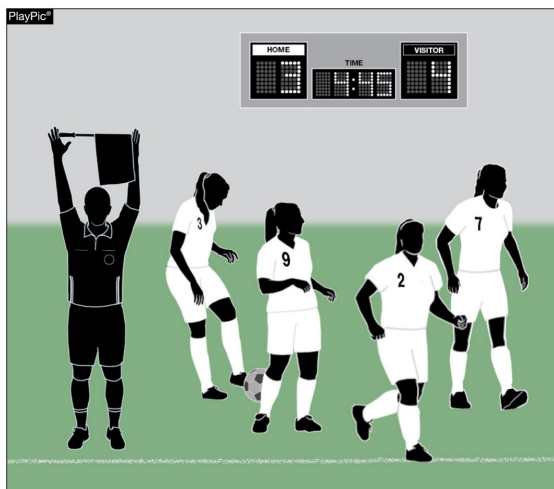
EDITORIAL CHANGES



**PLAY.
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TIME – OUT AND IN 7-4-3



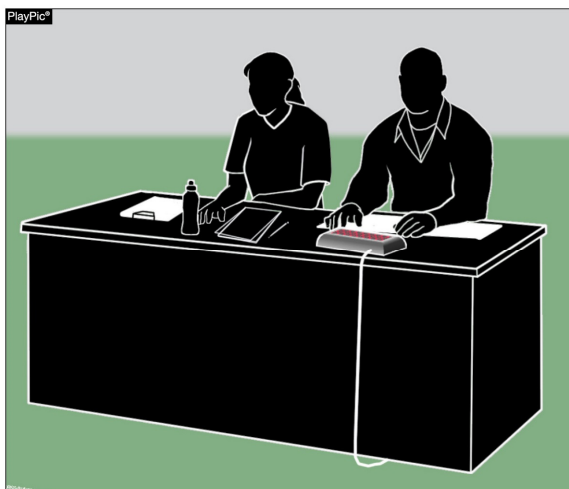
The clock shall be stopped when a substitute by the team in the lead is beckoned onto the field in the final five minutes of regulation or overtime.



Notes: This is not a rules change this year, but a clarification that the language that was in 3-4-3 has been removed so now all language is in 7-4-3.



TIMER 6-2-3



The official timer shall start or stop the timing device as per 7-4 when signaled to do so by the referee.

This change removes a duplicate reference to timer duties.



Removed duplicate description of when the clock is to start and stop and consolidates all articles within the book.

MISCONDUCT

12-5-1f15, 5-1-2



Amended language related to prohibition of players, coaches, bench personnel or officials related to the use of alcohol, tobacco or controlled or illicit substance(s) for non-medicinal purposes beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the contest.



Notes: This editorial change brings language in line with all NFHS Rules Books.

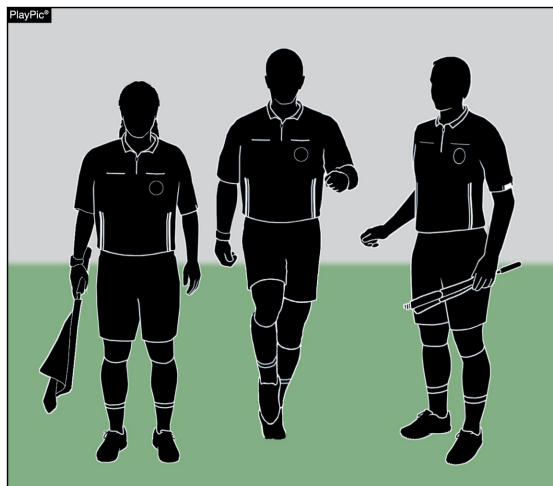


POINTS OF EMPHASIS



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OFFICIAL'S TOOLBOX FOR GAME MANAGEMENT



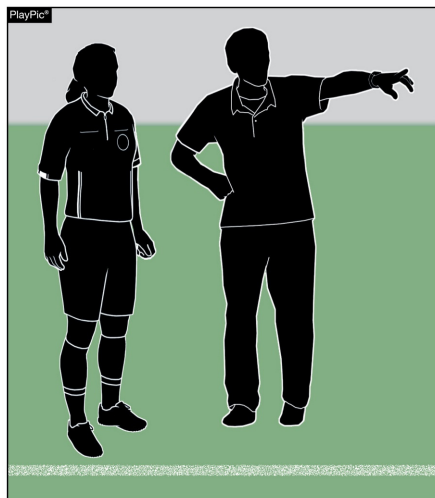
Referees have a variety of skills, techniques and strategies within their “toolbox” to effectively officiate a match and maintain control over players, coaches and the game environment.



A referee's "toolbox" for game management consists of various skills, techniques, and strategies they can employ to effectively officiate a match and maintain control over the players, coaches and game environment.

By utilizing these tools effectively while managing emotions and remaining calm and composed, referees can promote fair play, ensure player safety, and contribute to a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved in the game.

OFFICIAL'S TOOLBOX FOR GAME MANAGEMENT

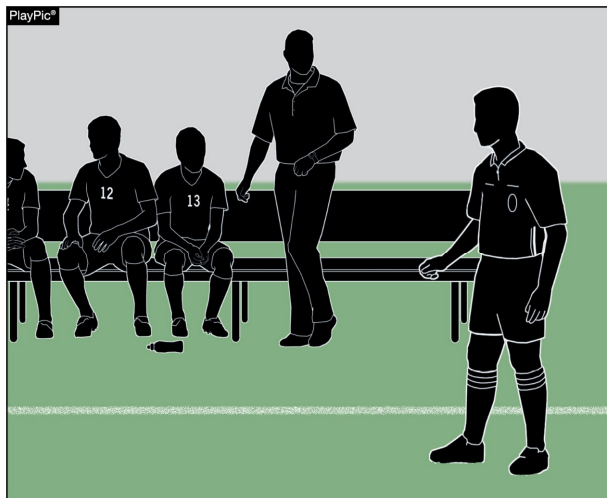


These tools include:

- Communication – Using verbal and non-verbal cues to convey decision, instructions, warnings and working with game site administration to facilitate a positive game environment.
- Game control – Using authority to manage the tempo and flow of the game, intervening to calm tensions, prevent conflicts and address unsporting behavior.



OFFICIAL'S TOOLBOX FOR GAME MANAGEMENT



- Development – With the explanation of misconduct, both coaches and officials should approach interactions with respect and maintain professionalism.
- Adaptability – Referees must adapt to changing circumstances and adjust their officiating style based on the level of play, the behavior of players and unexpected developments during the match.

STOPPING A PROMISING ATTACK



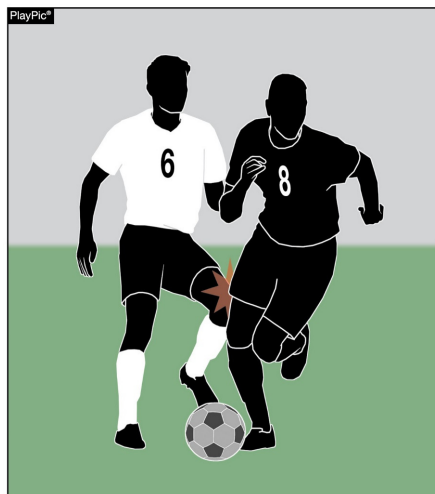
The strategy of tactically fouling with the aim to interrupt the attacking team's progress without necessarily denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is a form of misconduct.

Rule 12 highlights the importance of discerning the nature of these types of tactical offenses for consistent and fair officiating.



The inclusion of the considerations for a promising attack serves as a crucial clarification in the rules, specifically addressing what was previously referred to as “tactical fouls”. While the considerations are clear for obvious goal-scoring opportunities, promising attacks may be more difficult to recognize.

STOPPING A PROMISING ATTACK



Fouls that stop a promising attack (SPA)

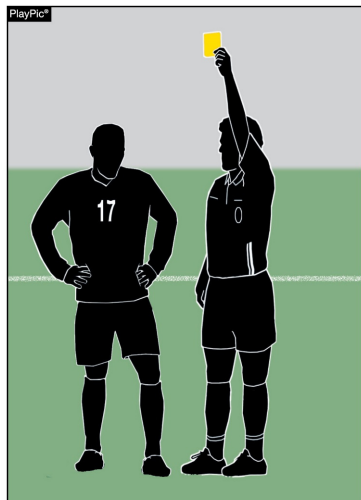
- might not be severe in nature,
- but the offense's impact on the attacking team's potential needs to be recognized and dealt with accordingly.

Officials need to understand

- to understand the nuanced dynamics of play,
- maintain a tactical awareness of the phase of play, and
- recognize SPA incidents.



STOPPING A PROMISING ATTACK



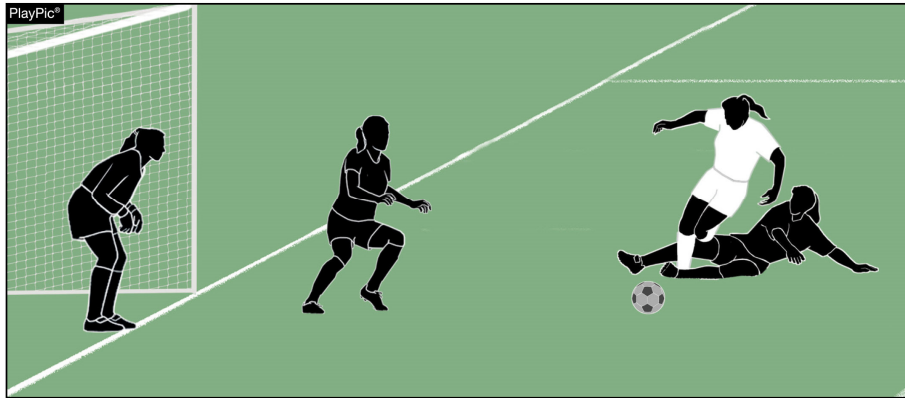
Referees are tasked with evaluating multiple factors to determine the promise of an attack, encompassing elements like:

- Player positioning,
- Ball control,
- Defensive presence,
- Team's pace.

Any foul disrupting a promising attack is considered misconduct, warranting a caution and a yellow card for the offending player.



STOPPING A PROMISING ATTACK



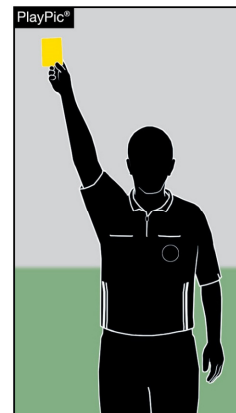
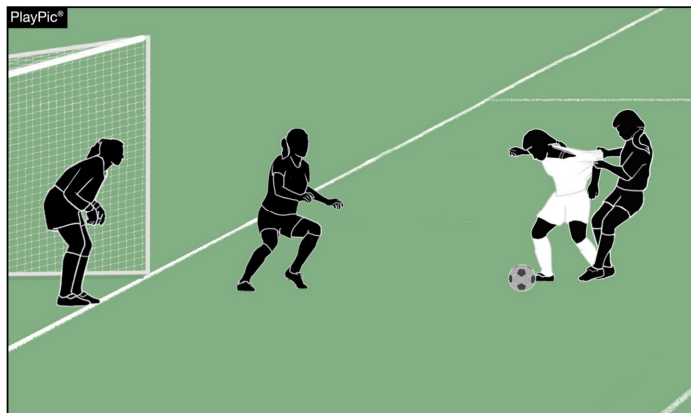
If SPA occurs within the offender's penalty area, and the foul is an attempt to play the ball, the player is not cautioned if the referee awards a penalty kick.



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Notes: In this PlayPic, the defender attempted to play the ball, but carelessly tripped the opponent in the penalty area. This is a foul that stops a promising attack. The official awards a penalty kick and the offender is not cautioned (yellow card).

STOPPING A PROMISING ATTACK



In other SPA circumstances inside the penalty area (e.g., holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) the offending player must be cautioned.

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Notes: In this PlayPic, the defender did not attempt to play the ball in the penalty area. This is a foul that stops a promising attack. and The official awards a penalty kick and the offender is cautioned (a yellow card).

AFTER A GOAL



After a goal is scored, officials must stay alert. In addition to administrative tasks, officials must be vigilant for any signs of tension or potential misconduct and address issues promptly to prevent situations from escalating.

Key aspects include:

- Officials need to work as a team to determine if the goal was, in fact, scored properly.
- Identifying and addressing any unsporting actions or misconduct.



AFTER A GOAL



- The officiating crew must monitor players for excessive or inappropriate behavior, such as taunting, or potential confrontations, dissent or other provocative actions.



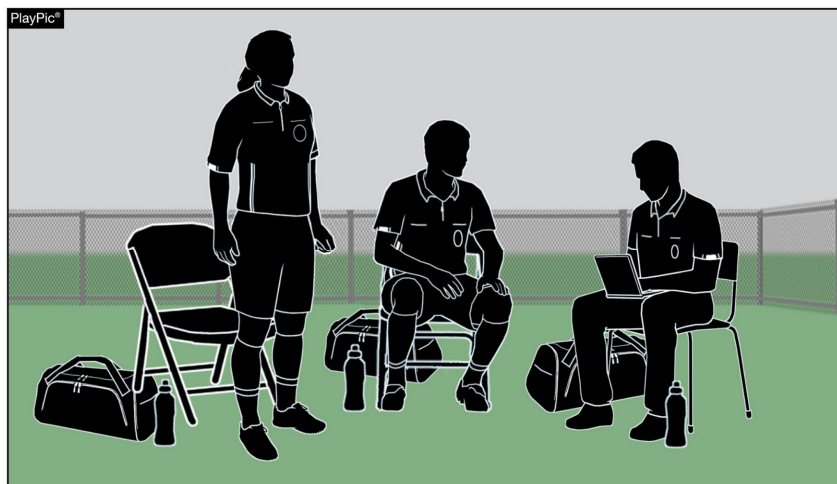
Notes: Observing players' reactions and behaviors after the goal is important to identify and address any unsporting actions or misconduct. This includes potential confrontations, dissent, or provocative actions. If the team that scored is behind, they may try to quickly retrieve the ball from the goal or grab it out of an opponent's hands. The defense that was setting an offside trap may swarm around the assistant referee to argue about a non-call. These can be volatile situations and proactive officials will intervene quickly to make their presence known. Officials should encourage attackers to return to their side of the field promptly or remind defenders the decisions of the officiating crew must be respected before their actions rise to misconduct. When behavior crosses the line, officials must recognize it and deal with it firmly and according to the rules.

AFTER A GOAL



Officials should focus on the players, recognize situations that could lead to conflicts, be present and proactive in their responses, and deal with misconduct appropriately.

AFTER A GOAL



The crew should cover record keeping and beckoning in substitutes in their pre-game discussions.



Notes: A recommended good practice: in the officials' pregame discussion is to review amongst the officiating crew the expected record keeping procedures after a goal to prevent all officials from looking at their books at the same time. A prepared and proactive officiating crew plans for success by having least one official observing the field of play while another records the event.

THANK YOU

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