



COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER OFFICIALS

HSSO Pre-Season Webinar

- Welcome & Updates – Ken
- Membership & eligibility update – Jason
- Rules update and Points of Emphasis – James
- Referee merchandise announcement – Ken
- Q&A – All
- Closing remarks - Ken





Welcome & Updates

Fall Season 2026

Ken Hehir

Post Season



POSTSEASON SCHEDULE

Semifinals Information



Tuesday, November 10

5A Semifinals

5:00 & 7:30 p.m.
DU — CIBER Field



Wednesday, November 11

2A Semifinals

5:00 & 7:30 p.m. (TBD)

3A Semifinals

5:00 & 7:30 p.m. (TBD)

4A Semifinals

5:00 & 7:30 p.m. (TBD)

Post Season



POSTSEASON SCHEDULE

Championships Information



Saturday, November 14 — Switchbacks Weidner Field, Colorado Springs



2A Final

9:00 a.m.



3A Final

12:00 p.m.



4A Final

3:00 p.m.



5A Final

6:00 p.m.



Overtime



COMMITTEE

2025-26 Soccer Committee Report — Major Changes



Overtime Period Shortened

- ☐ The overtime period has been shortened and will now be 10 minutes (decreased from 15).
- ☐ **Rationale:**
- ☐ Shortening overtime periods better aligns the ratio of overtime to regulation play, helps reduce student-athlete fatigue, and more closely aligns with collegiate soccer overtime standards.



Membership & Eligibility Updates

Fall Season 2026
Jason Hampton



Pre-game

Pre-game

Referee to introduce themselves to both coaches.

Pass out the cards with official's names on them.

Resources page - CHSAA Pregame Sportsmanship Card (pdf)

The prescribed HS pre-game is also on these cards

HSSO MANDATORY SPORTSMANSHIP PRE-GAME PROCEDURE



Prior to each varsity and sub-varsity soccer game, the officials will address captains and coaches of both teams concerning sportsmanship. The referee shall emphasize that good sportsmanship is expected of all participants in high school athletic competition and that insulting, offensive, abusive, vulgar, or profane language or gestures, taunting, and excessive celebration will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately if they occur during the match.



5 Most Commonly Missed Questions

Fall Season 2026
James Mayes



Question:

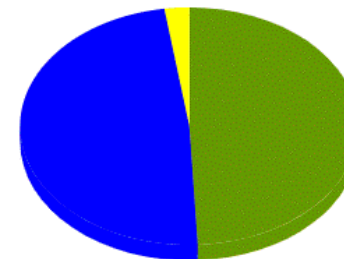
A defender touches the ball with their arm within the penalty area and stops a promising attack. The defender did not move the arm toward the ball; however, the arm made their body unnaturally bigger.

Answer:

Penalty kick

A defender touches the ball with their arm within the penalty area and stops a promising attack. The defender did not move the arm toward the ball; however, the arm made their body unnaturally bigger.

1. 🟢 (187, 49.21%) Penalty kick.
2. 🟡 (184, 48.42%) Penalty kick and caution.
3. 🟠 (9, 2.37%) Penalty kick and ejection.



*Choice #1
Choice #2
Choice #3

Question:

Prior to the game the referee observes standing water on the field and feels that the field is not safe.

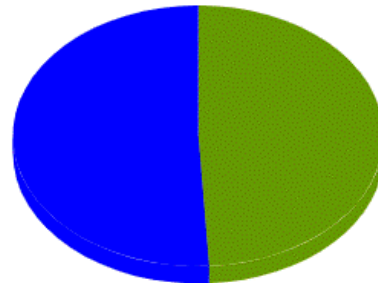


Answer:

The school administrator/site director decides if the field is safe prior to the start of play.

Prior to the game the referee observes standing water on the field and feels that the field is not safe.

1. 🚫 (184, 49.07%) Report to administrators the game will not be played.
2. ✅ (191, 50.93%) The school administrator/site director decides if the field is safe prior to the start of play.



■ *Choice #1
■ Choice #2



Question:

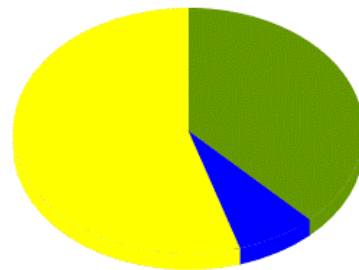
Defender B3 deliberately kicks the ball to goalkeeper B1, who attempts, unsuccessfully, to kick it up field. The ball touches the foot of goalkeeper B1 but goes backward toward the goal. Goalkeeper B1 chases the ball and touches it with their hands, preventing it from entering the goal.

Answer:

Legal, since B1 attempted to kick the ball, and allow play to continue.

Defender B3 deliberately kicks the ball to goalkeeper B1, who attempts, unsuccessfully, to kick it up field. The ball touches the foot of goalkeeper B1, but goes backward toward the goal. Goalkeeper B1 chases the ball and touches it with their hands, preventing it from entering the goal.

1. ❌ (143, 37.83%) Illegal, caution B1 and restart with an indirect free kick for team A.
2. ❌ (28, 7.41%) Illegal, eject B1 and restart with a penalty kick for team A.
3. ✅ (207, 54.76%) Legal, since B1 attempted to kick the ball, and allow play to continue.



*Choice #1
Choice #2
Choice #3



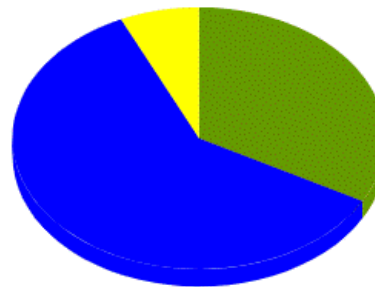
Question:

At a penalty kick, a teammate of the kicker enters the penalty arc before the ball is in play and does not interfere with the kick. What is the correct decision if the kicker scores a goal directly from the penalty kick?

Answer:
Goal.

At a penalty kick, a teammate of the kicker enters the penalty arc before the ball is in play and does not interfere with the kick. What is the correct decision if the kicker scores a goal directly from the penalty kick?

1. ❌ (125, 32.98%) No goal, retake the penalty kick, no caution.
2. ✅ (228, 60.16%) **Goal.**
3. ❌ (26, 6.86%) No goal, retake the penalty kick, caution the teammate who encroached.



*Choice #1
Choice #2
Choice #3



Question:

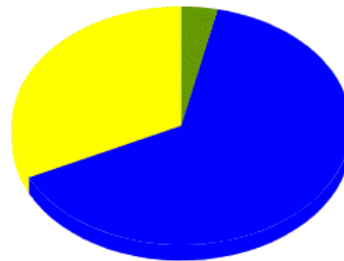
Play is restarted with a dropped ball for team A. After the ball touches the ground, A8 dribbles it several times with their feet and then kicks the ball directly into the opponent's goal.

Answer:

No goal; restart with a goal kick.

Play is restarted with a dropped ball for team A. After the ball touches the ground, A8 dribbles it several times with their feet and then kicks the ball directly into the opponent's goal.

1. ❌ (13, 3.46%) Indirect free kick for team B; player cannot dribble from a drop ball.
2. ✅ (242, 64.36%) No goal; restart with a goal kick.
3. ❌ (121, 32.18%) Goal.



*Choice #1
Choice #2
Choice #3



Rules updates and Points of Emphasis

Fall Season 2026
James Mayes



PLAY.
PERFORM.
COMPETE.
TOGETHER.

2026-27 NFHS Soccer PowerPoint

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NFHS Soccer Rules

- This is a condensed version of the full presentations. For complete presentations, visit <https://nfhs.org/sports/soccer/rules> for...
- Rule Books
- Rule Changes
- Rules Resources
- Uniform Requirements
- NFHS Rules Interpretations
- Points of Emphasis

REQUIRED UNIFORM

RULE 4-1-4c



LEGAL



ILLEGAL

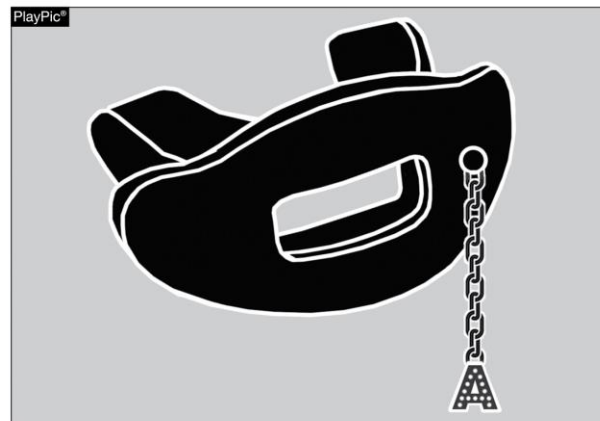
Home team socks shall be a single dominant **dark** color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey for the home team. Dark is defined as any color which contrasts to white.

TOOTH & MOUTH PROTECTOR

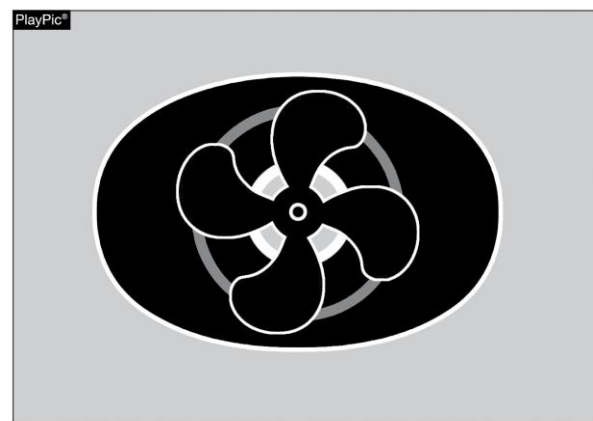
RULE 4-2-7d



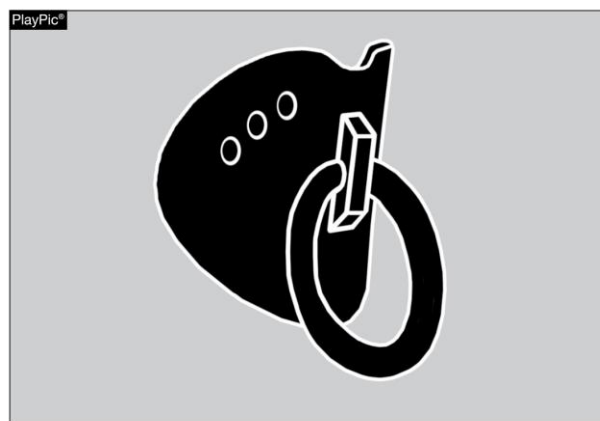
ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL

Tooth and mouth protectors, if worn by players, should not serve any function other than to protect the teeth or mouth.

WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

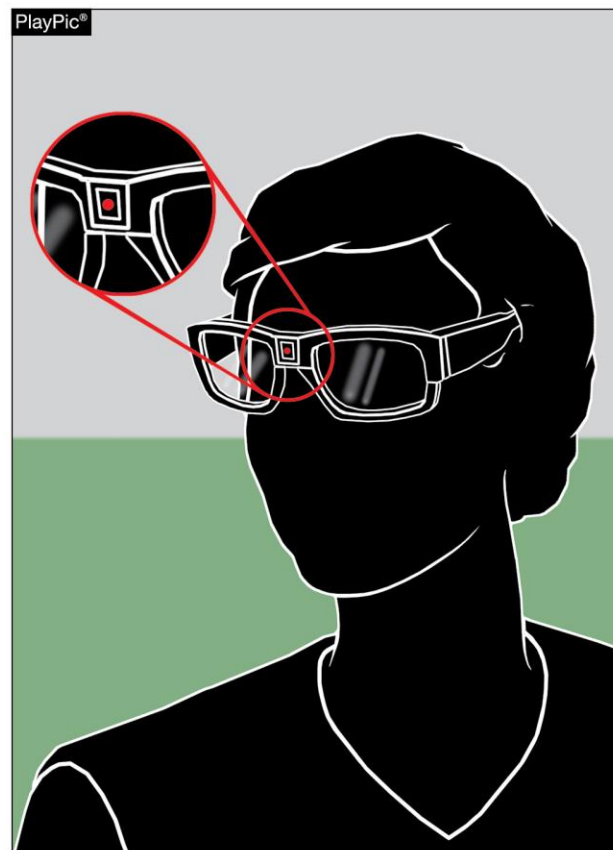
RULE 4-2-11a thru c



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL



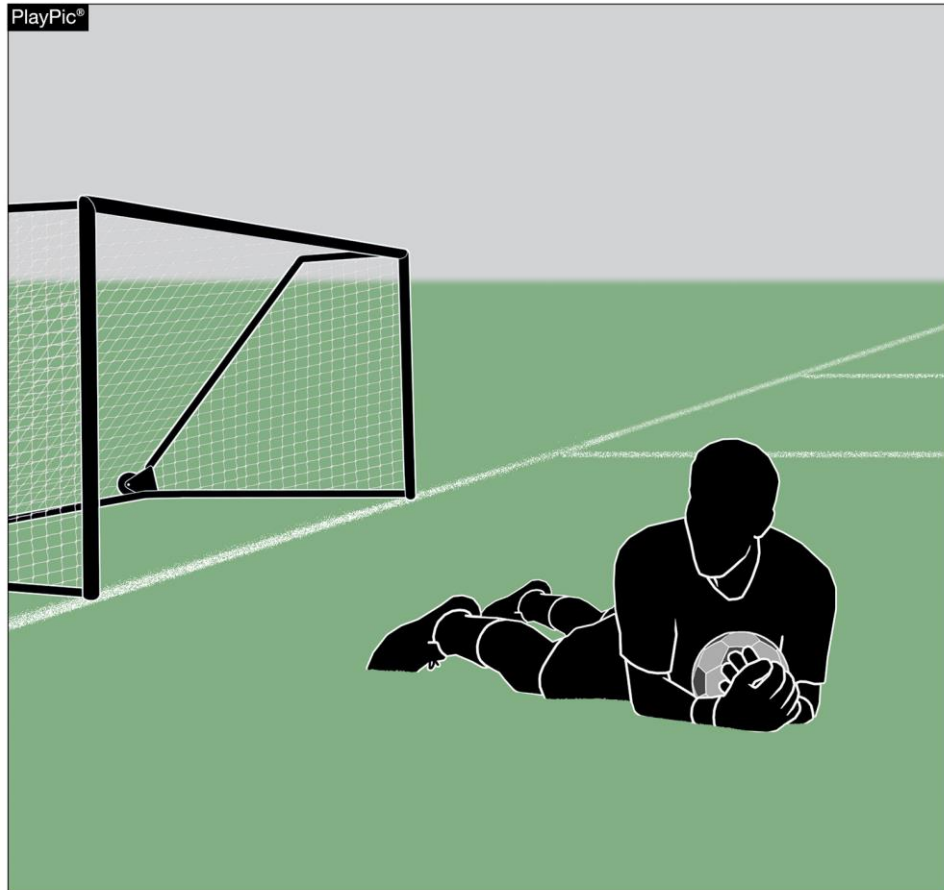
ILLEGAL

Players are not permitted to wear any type of audio or video device to record, transmit or livestream, aligning with other NFHS rules books.

State associations may further restrict electronic devices.

GOALKEEPER

RULES 12-3-1, 12-3-3a and 17-1-1, 3



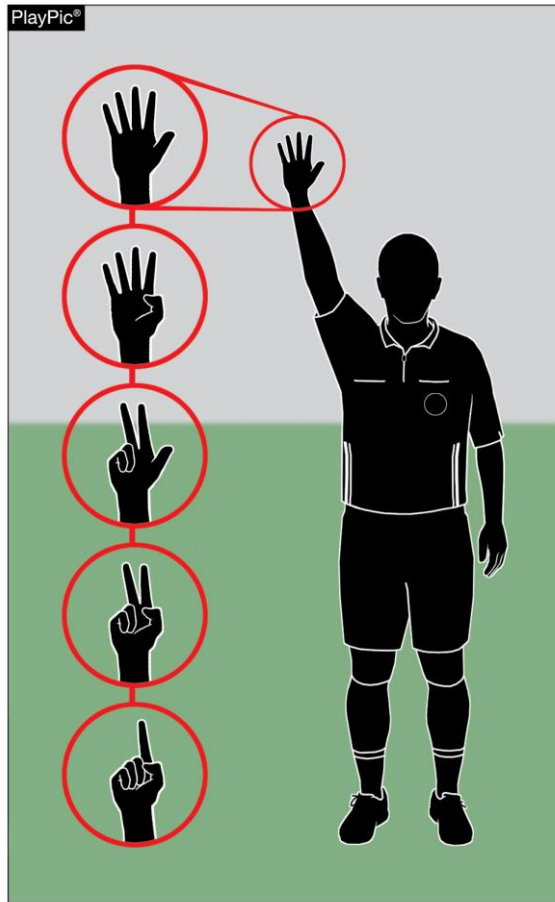
After controlling the ball with their hands/arm, the goalkeepers will now have **8** seconds instead of 6 seconds to release the ball.

The referee determines when the **8** second count begins.

Penalty: A **corner kick** will be awarded if the goalkeeper holds the ball longer than **8** seconds, replacing the previous indirect free kick restart.

GOALKEEPER

RULES 12-3-3a(2)



The referee shall signal the remaining five seconds (using Official NFHS Soccer Signals, Rule 5-3-1b) by raising an arm above the head and indicating the number of seconds left with their fingers.

Violations of this rule are still enforced even if the referee fails to provide a visual signal.



INDIRECT FREE KICKS

RULE 12-3-5

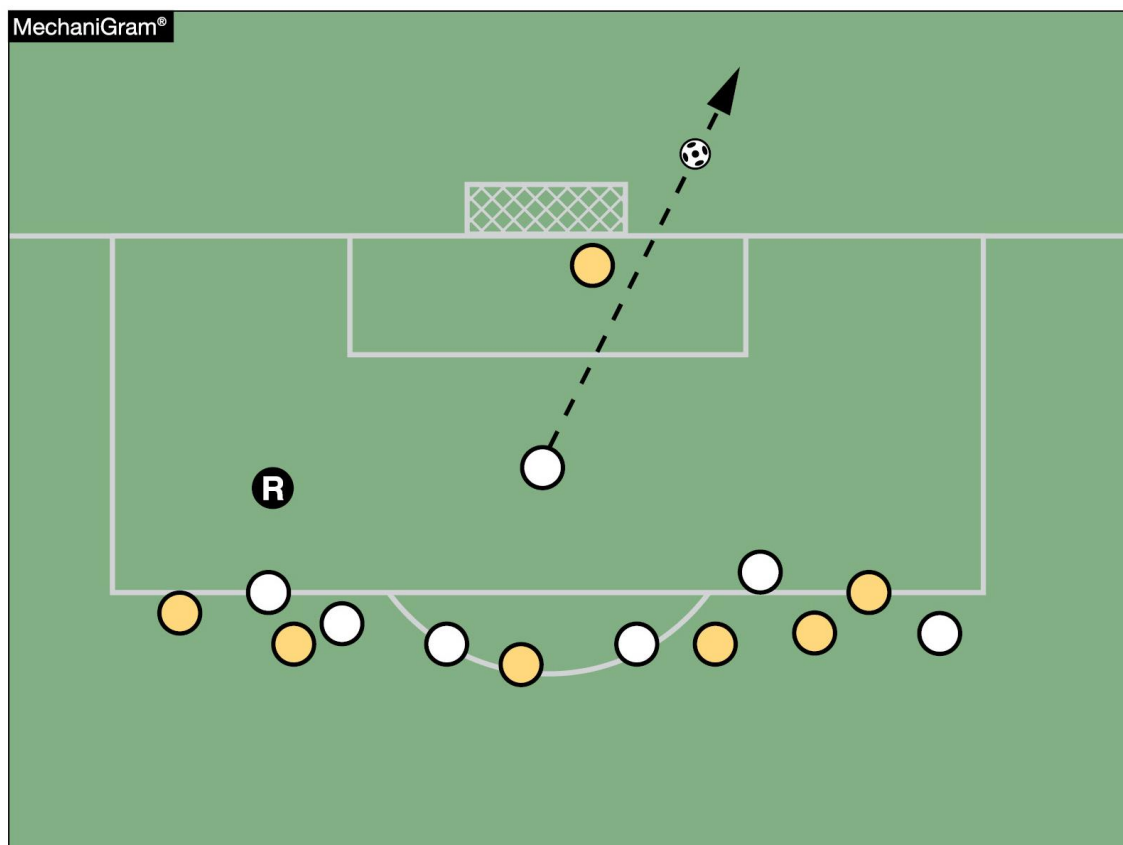
Clarifying language was added to considerations for dangerous play.

Dangerous play now explicitly includes actions preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.

This includes playing in such a manner which could cause injury to self or another player, opponent or teammate, **or which prevents a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.**

PENALTY KICK

RULE 14-1-2 – ENCROACHMENT

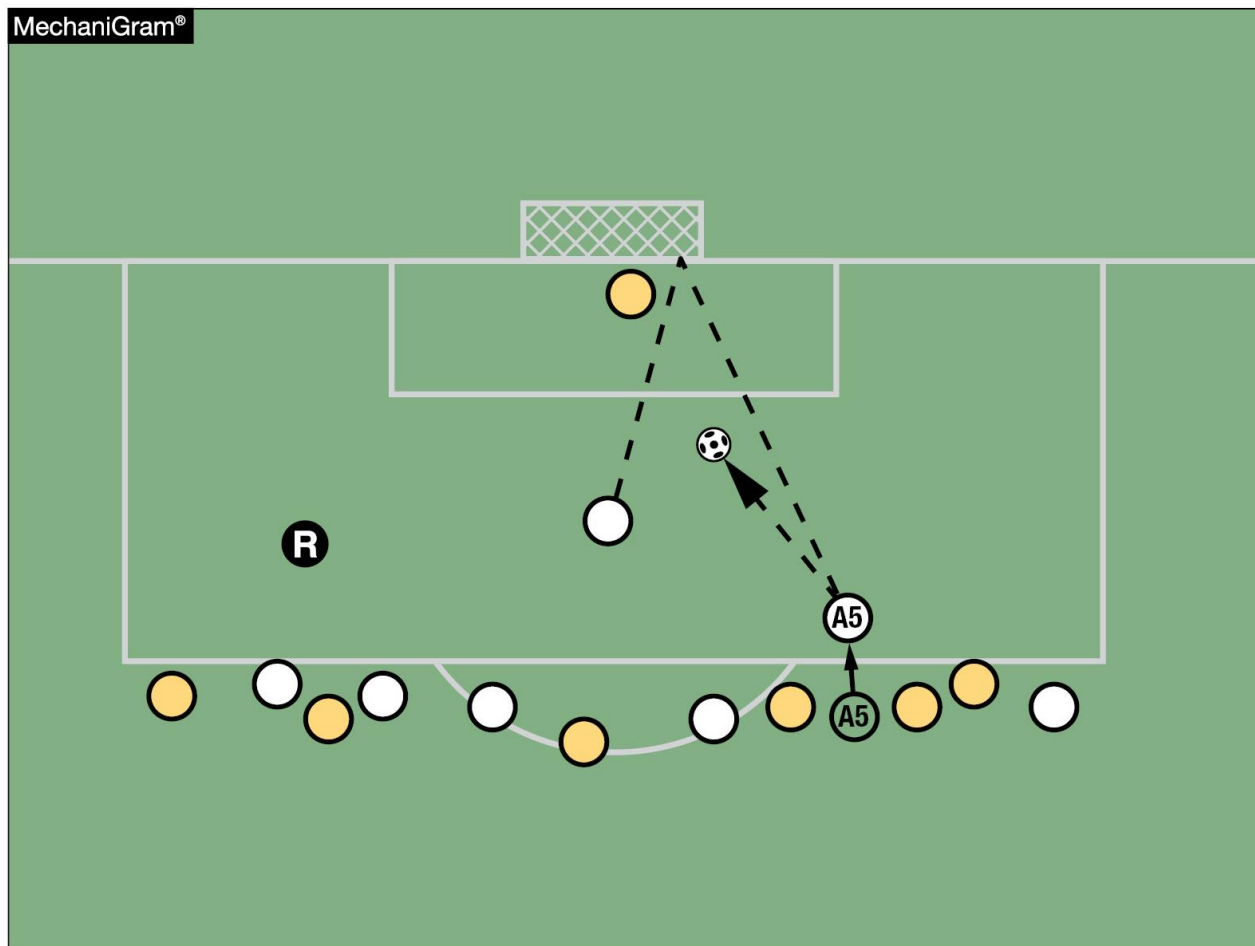


No Impact

Encroachment is penalized only if the offense has a clear impact on the penalty kick.

If players from either team enter the penalty area or arc early but have no effect on the kicker, goalkeeper, or the immediate play, officials should allow the result of the kick to stand without penalty.

RULE 14 -1-2



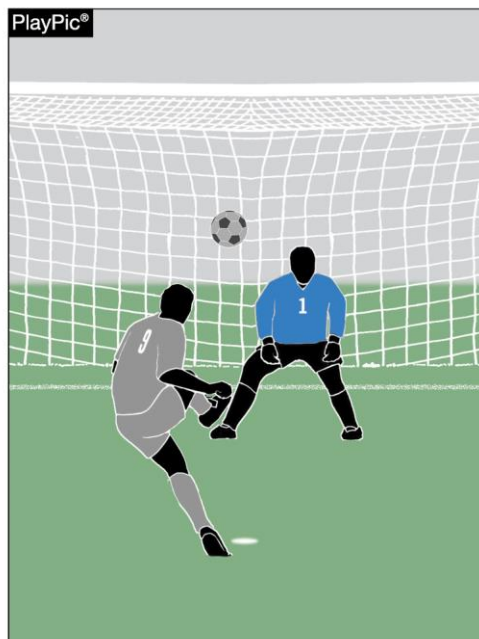
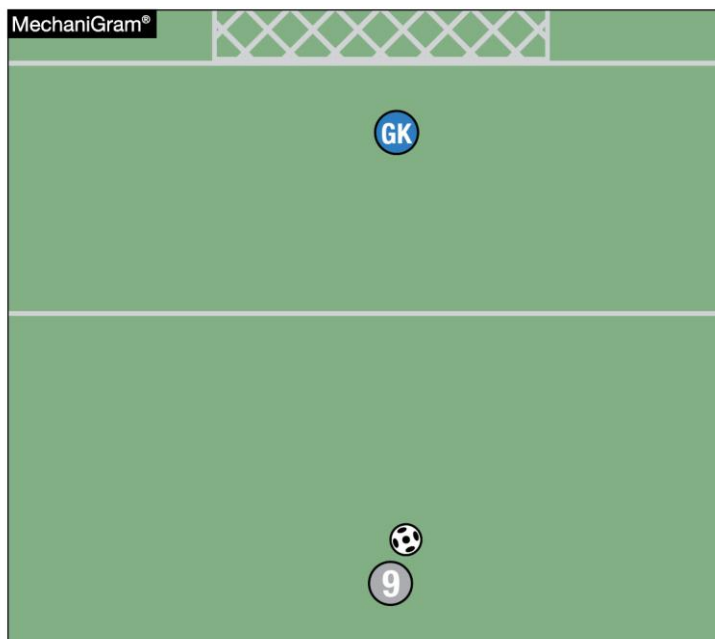
Impact

Encroaching attacker A5 impacts the play.

Penalty: The defending team is awarded an indirect free kick from where A5 kicked the ball.

PENALTY KICK

RULE 14-1-3 – GOALKEEPER ENCROACHMENT



Goalkeepers will now receive a warning for a first offense rather than an immediate caution.

Cautions are reserved for subsequent infractions.



2026-27 NFHS Soccer Editorial Changes



PLAYER EQUIPMENT

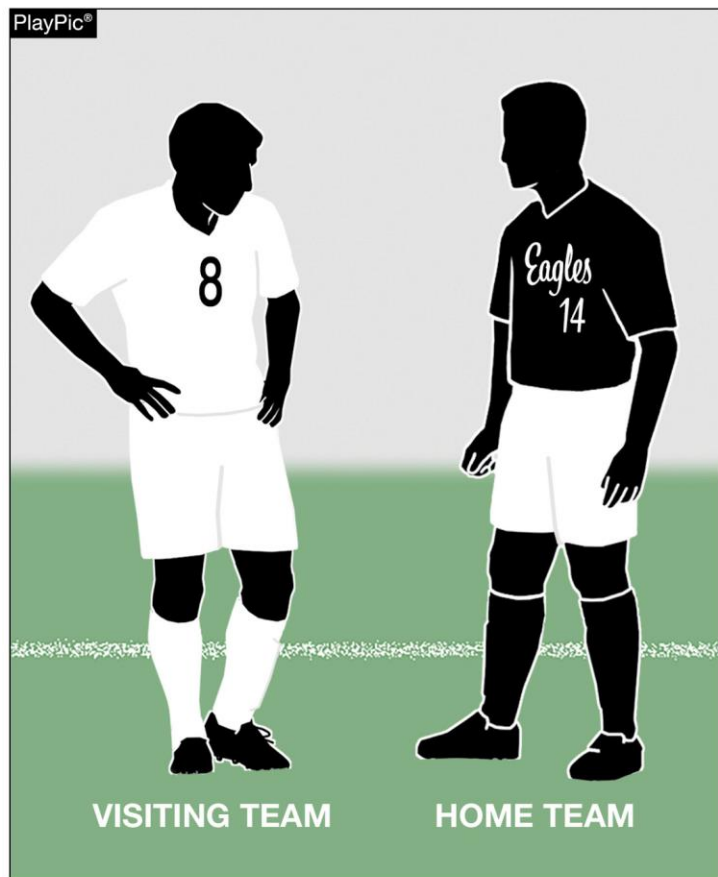
RULE 4-1-2

All jerseys, including the goalkeeper's jersey, shall be numbered with a different, **unique** Arabic number.

If a visible number is worn on the uniform bottom, it shall be the same number as on the uniform top.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

RULE 4-3-3



Both teams may wear shorts of a similar color.



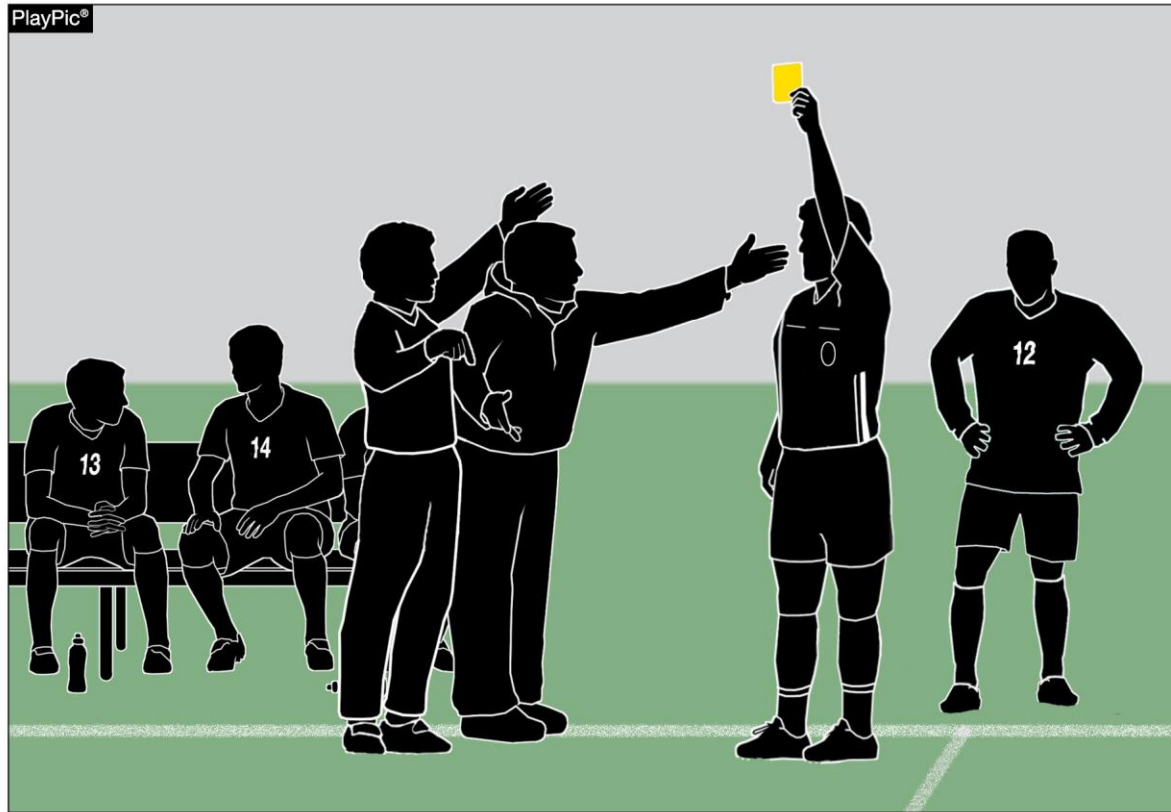
2026-27 NFHS Soccer Points of Emphasis

SHARED PROFESSIONALISM AND BENCH ACCOUNTABILITY



- High school soccer serves as an extension of the classroom, requiring both officials and coaches to uphold the highest standards of composure and integrity.
- Professional communication should remain non-threatening and conversational. Raising one's voice, displaying frustrations or acting in a provocative manner only escalates conflict.

SHARED PROFESSIONALISM AND BENCH ACCOUNTABILITY



- When a caution or ejection is issued, officials advise the head coach using appropriate rulebook language. Both parties share responsibility for ensuring communication remains professional.
- Any dissent or inappropriate conduct should be addressed firmly and professionally. Coaches are accountable for their behavior and must model emotional control and sportsmanship.

MANAGING GOAL CELEBRATIONS



- Celebrating after scoring a goal is an integral part of soccer. Reacting with joy is permissible provided it is not excessive and not accompanied by taunting.
- Players are allowed to celebrate and may leave the field momentarily, provided they make a prompt return to the playing field. Rehearsed or choreographed celebrations should be discouraged.

MANAGING GOAL CELEBRATIONS



- The line between allowable celebration and misconduct is crossed when a player or team prevents a timely restart by delaying excessively or by taunting opponents or fans.
- Examples of misconduct include jumping over barriers, climbing fences, or removing one's jersey. Any act that prohibits a timely restart is unsporting conduct and requires a caution.



PENALTY KICK OFFENSES AND THE CONCEPT OF IMPACT

- Encroachment during a penalty kick is only penalized if the offense has a clear impact on the play.
- Encroachment by the defending team is never penalized if the goal is scored. If the kick is missed or saved and the defense encroached with impact, the kick is retaken.
- Goalkeepers who encroach and impact the kicker shall receive a warning for the first offense, with cautions reserved for subsequent infractions.
- While kickers are permitted stutter-steps during the run-up, feinting once the approach is complete is unsporting conduct that shall be cautioned on every occurrence.



Referee Merchandise Announcement

Fall Season 2026

Ken Hehir

HSSO + Macron



MERCHANDISING

Home / Merchandising

Merchandising

Fabric ▾

Category ▾

Gender ▾



WOMAN
FIT



Questions & Answers

Fall Season 2026



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Closing Remarks

Fall Season 2026

Ken Hehir