WELCOME NCSOA NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS AND GUEST OFFICIALS!

Nassau County Soccer Officials Association

FALL 2026
RULES INTERPRETATION & GENERAL MEETING #1

NYS CERTIFIED OFFICIALS OF SOCCER

NASSAU COUNTY SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

2026 Interpretation



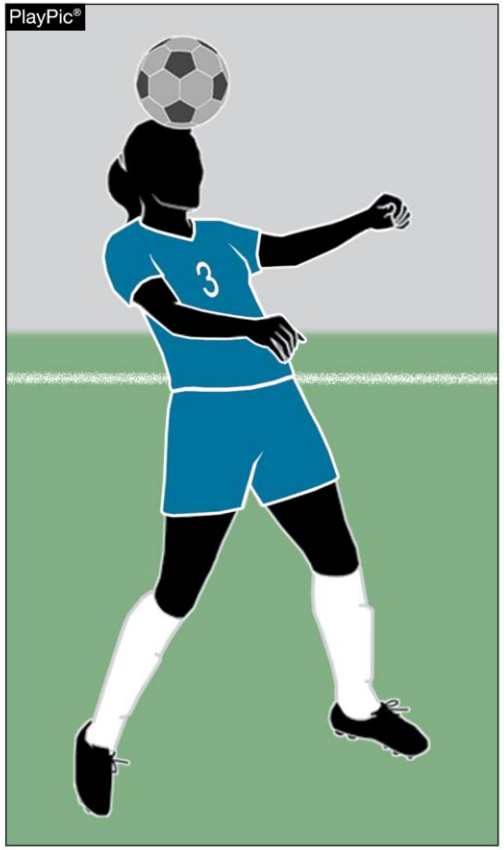
2026-27 NFHS Soccer Rules Changes



REQUIRED UNIFORM
RULE 4-1-4c



LEGAL

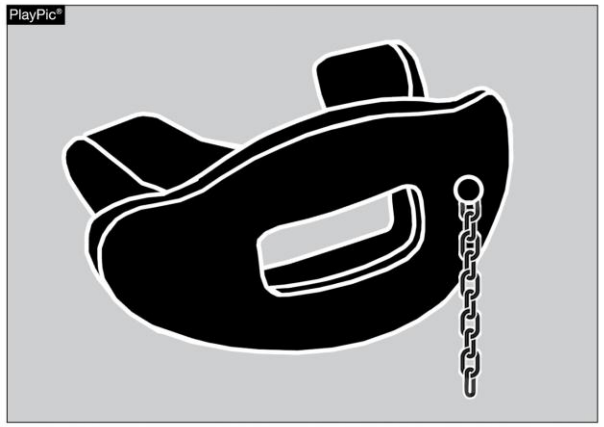


ILLEGAL

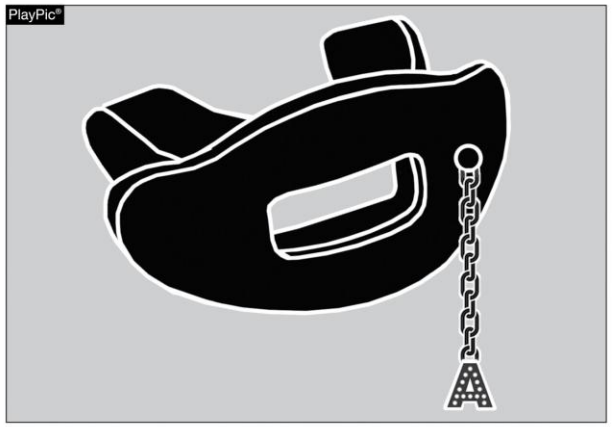
Home team socks shall be a single dominant dark color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey for the home team. Dark is defined as any color which contrasts to white.

Rationale: The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other. The addition of the word dark in the home team sock clarifies that only the visiting team may wear white socks. This has been the current interpretation for years.

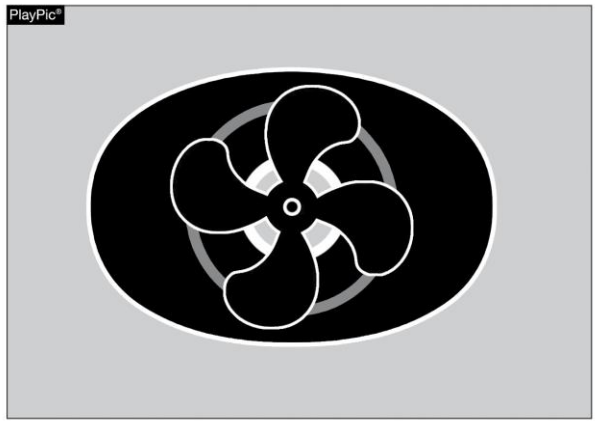
TOOTH & MOUTH PROTECTOR
RULE 4-2-7d



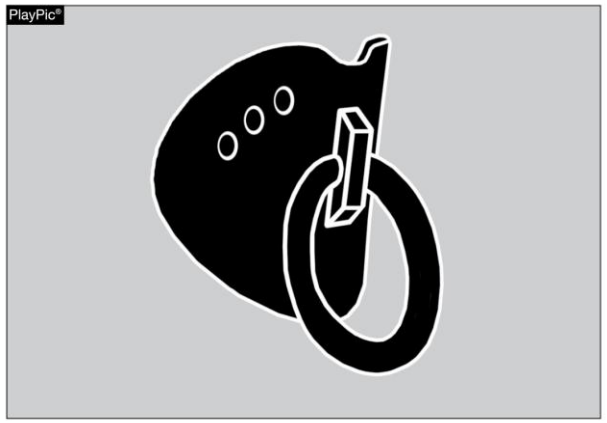
ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL

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

Rationale: The overall purpose and function of the tooth and mouth protector is to protect the teeth, the mouth, and lips if it has a lip guard. Items that are added or included on the tooth and mouth protector that do not serve a purpose or function in the protection of the teeth or mouth should not be allowed. Also, items that are a part of the tooth and mouth protector that are a health risk to the individual wearing it should not be allowed.

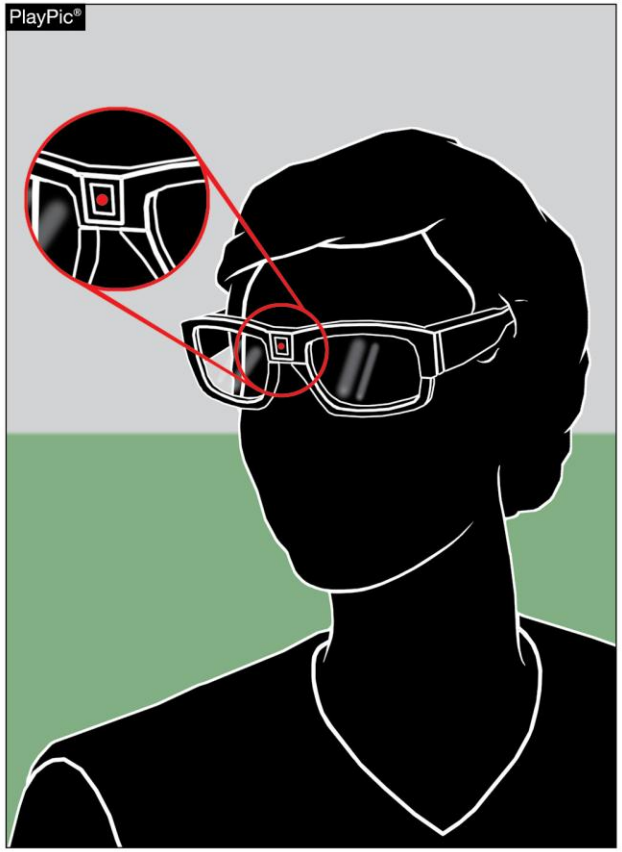
WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY
RULE 4-2-11a thru c



ILLEGAL



ILLEGAL

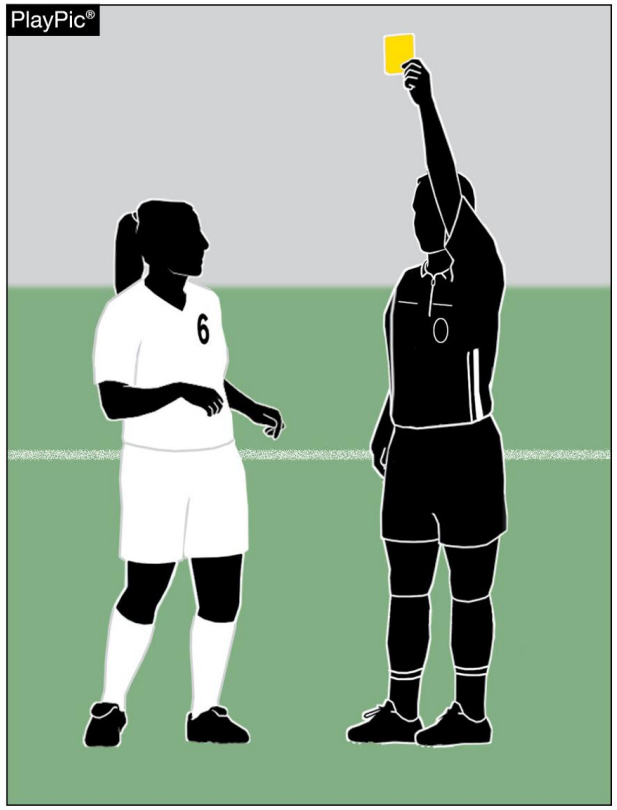


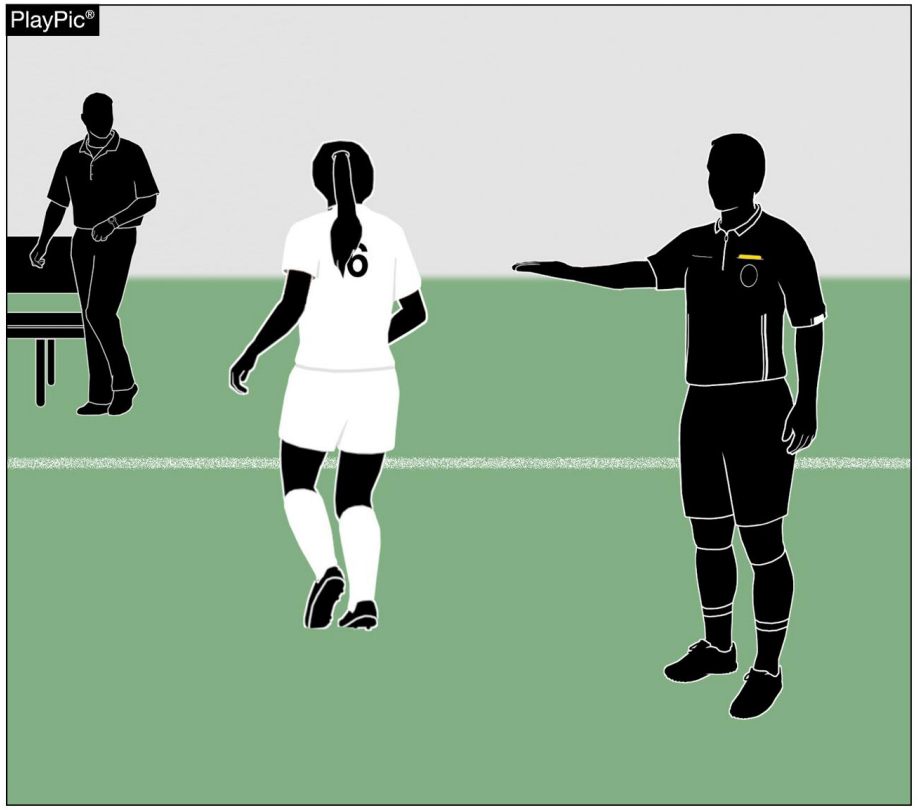
ILLEGAL

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.

THE OFFICIALS
RULE 5-3-1f thru j

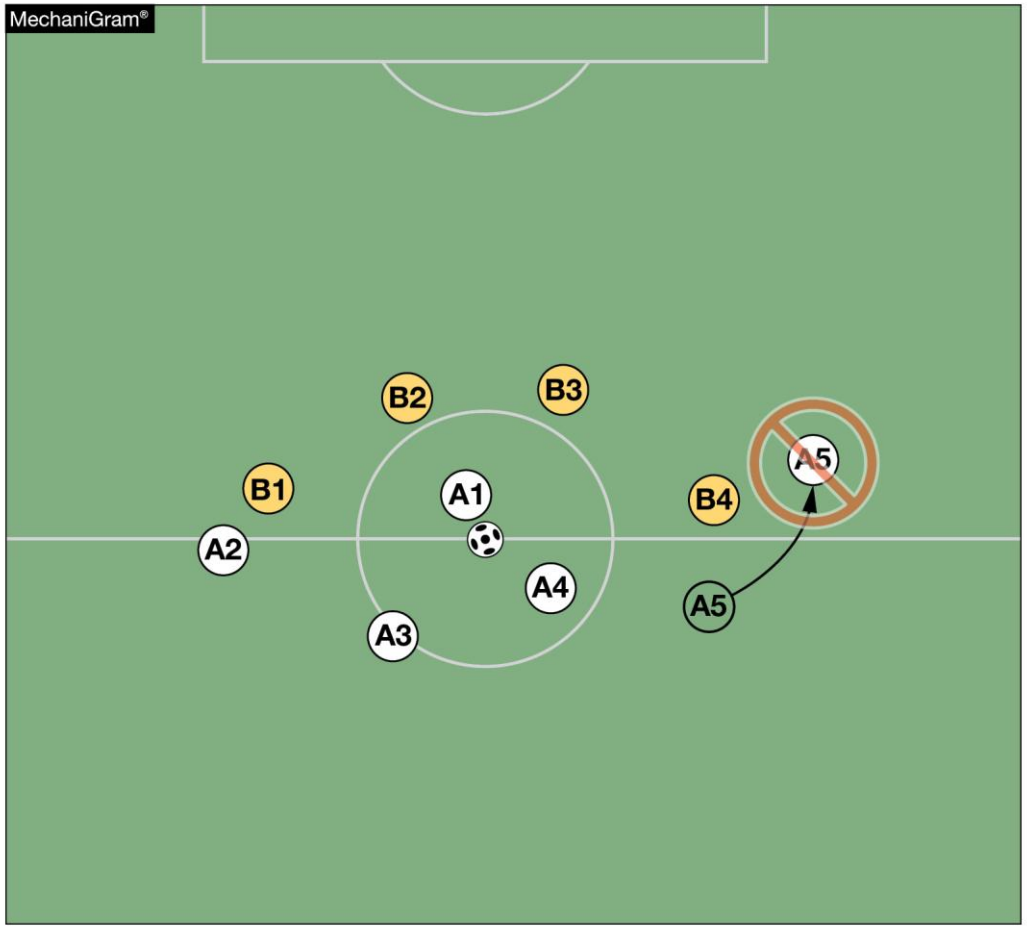




Added clarification in Rule 5, for the officials' responsibilities to now include directing any player shown a yellow or red card to leave the field of play.

The official must notify both coaches, the scorer, and other official(s) of the nature of the misconduct after showing a yellow or red card to a player, coach or bench personnel.

KICKOFF
RULE 8-1-2



All players, except the player taking the kickoff, must be on their half of the field otherwise the kickoff shall be retaken.

Rationale: This change provides clarity on the differing restarts regarding kickoff offenses. This change explicitly addresses situations when the kickoff should be retaken because players were not properly positioned on their half of the field.
An indirect free kick is awarded to the opponent if the offensive player who took the kickoff touches the ball after the kick before it is played or touched by another player on either team

BITING
RULE 12-2-3

Biting was incorporated into direct free kick fouls.

A player shall not spit at or bite anyone listed on a roster or a game official, otherwise a direct free kick foul will be awarded.

Rationale: Incorporates biting into direct free kick fouls.
The old rule only discussed spitting at a player the new rule incorporates spitting or biting essentially anyone.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT
RULE 12-1-2c



A player shall not charge into, or challenge, an opposing goalkeeper who is controlling the ball with their hands.

Penalty: Direct Free Kick

Outside the penalty area, the goalkeeper has no more privileges than any other player.

Rationale:

Overall, this change aligns the rule with consistent officiating practice, removes redundancies and improves clarity without materially altering when a charge is or is not permitted.

The change consolidates language referring to the goalkeeper controlling the ball with their hands, where the simplified language refers to the full, shared definition referenced in a later section.

This change emphasizes the core safety concept that remains unchanged: the goalkeeper in possession of the ball with their hands cannot be charged or challenged.

GOALKEEPER INTERFERENCE
RULE 12-3-2



Goalkeeper Interference: A player shall not prevent the opposing goalkeeper from releasing the ball from their hands nor kick, or attempt to kick, the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it.

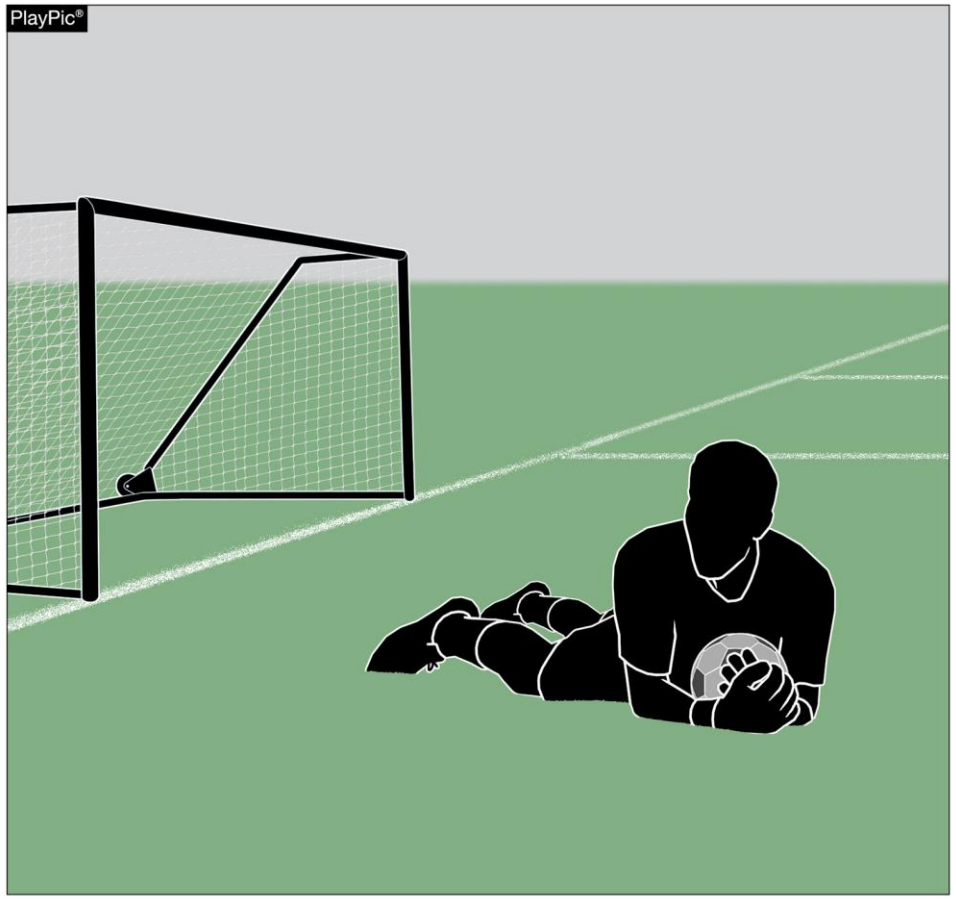
Penalty: Indirect Free Kick

RULE 12-3-2a

The goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with the hand(s)/arm(s) when:

1. The ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g., ground, own body, goal post) or by touching the ball with any part of the hands or arms;
2. Holding the ball in an outstretched open hand;
3. Bouncing the ball on the ground or throwing the ball in the air, including bouncing or throwing the ball as part of kicking or punting the ball.

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

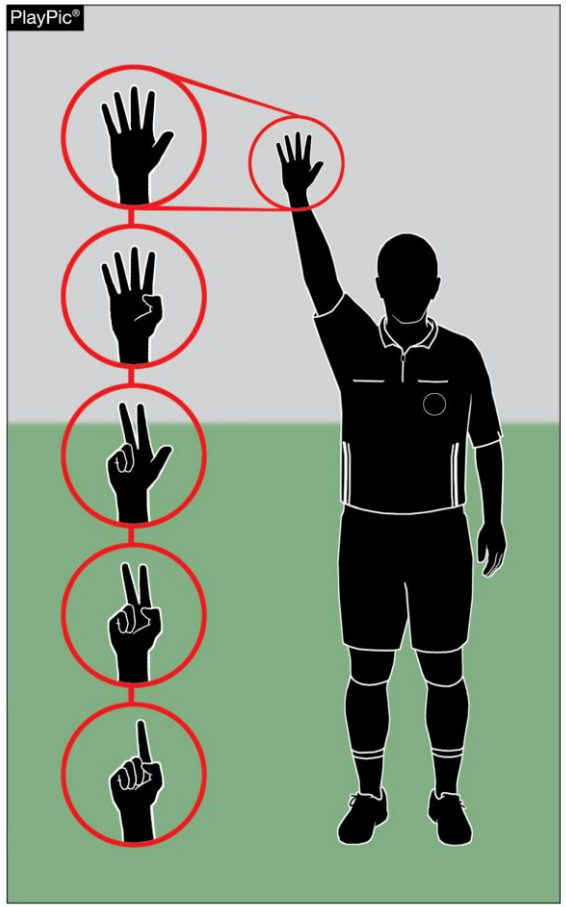


After controlling the ball with their hands/arm, the goalkeepers will now have 8 seconds instead of 6 seconds to release the ball.

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.

Rationale: Adds clarifying language to the considerations for dangerous play that include actions that prevent a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.

VERBAL OFFENSES
RULES 12-3-6, 12-3-7

Rules 12-3-6 was added to include verbal offenses as IDFK.

This gives officials more flexibility when disciplining verbal offenses: they are now considered fouls at a minimum and may rise to the level of misconduct depending on the circumstances.

Rule 12-3-7 Address if the game is stopped for misconduct and no other restart takes precedence; then it will restart with IDFK.

Verbal offense situations

Situation: On a penalty kick, the defending team B2 shouts loudly at the moment that A10 is about to kick the ball. This is unfair interference and distracts the kicker. The referee retakes the penalty kick. RULING: Correct Procedure.

Situation: A2 is about to receive the ball, an B3 who is close and behind the defender, shouts to mislead the opponent. A2 hesitates and fails to control the ball turning it over to B3. The referee stops play and awards an indirect free kick (INDFK) and cautions B3 for unsporting behavior. RULING: Correct procedure. The referee may award an IDFK if they feel the verbal offense warrants the stoppage

DOGSO EJECTIONS RULE 12-6-1b (1-4)

Revisions clarify and simplify language surrounding Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) ejections.

Redundant wording was removed and references to intending to deny a goal or goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) were eliminated.

The updated structure provides clear situations for which denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity is penalized with an ejection.

FREE KICK RESTARTS
RULES 13-1 THRU 13-3

Revisions clarify procedures for restarts on free kicks by breaking the rule into distinct categories.

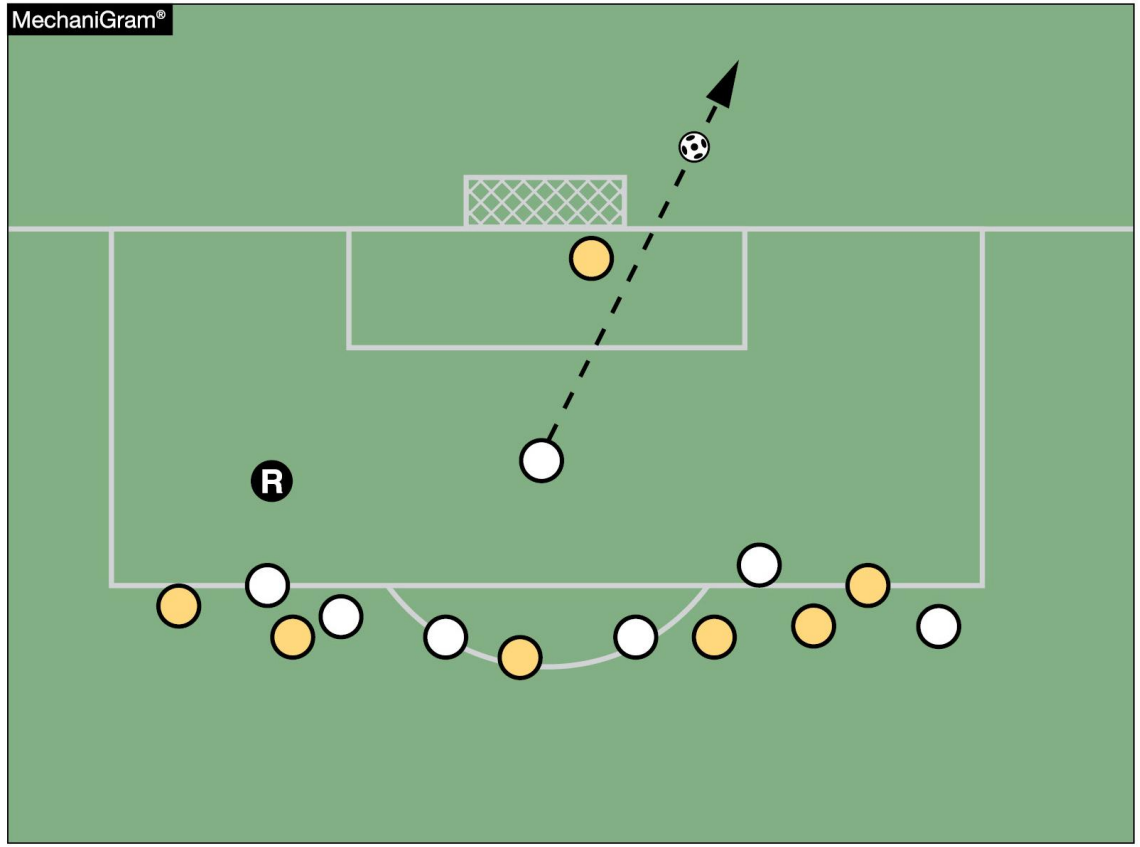
The update outlines when and where free kicks are awarded, how they are to be taken, and the correct restart locations.

It also incorporates restart procedures for scenarios involving outside agents, offenses off the field, thrown objects, individuals entering the field illegally, players leaving the field without permission, and offenses outside the field of play.

RULE 13-2
When and Where Awarded

1. Free Kicks are the restarts for fouls
2. Free Kicks are taken from where the offense occurred with exceptions
3. Free Kicks taken inside the goal area
4. Outside interference, entering and re-entering the field
5. Players leaving the field
6. Offenses outside the field of play

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.

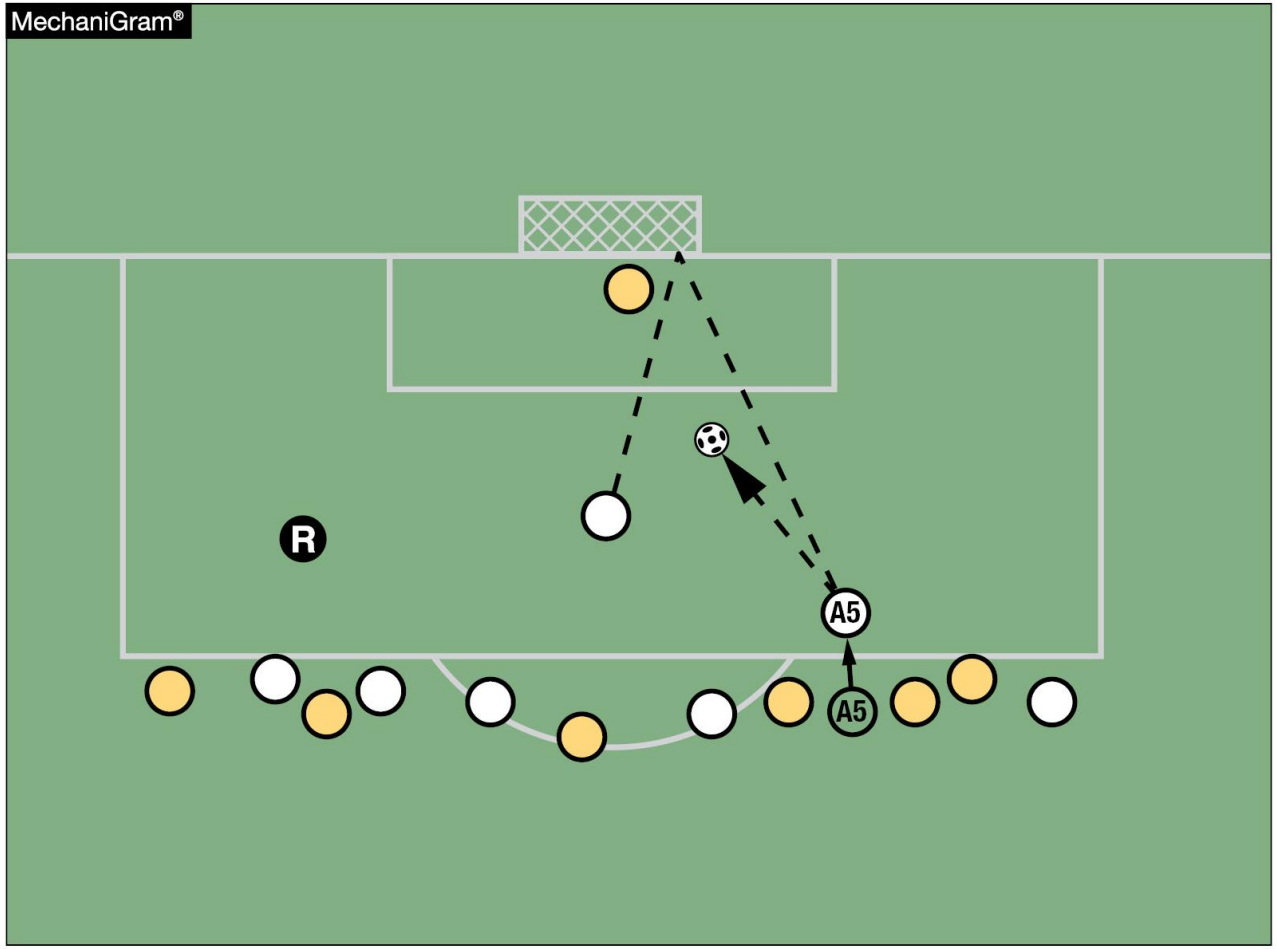
Rationale:
The rewrite ensures that encroachment is now only penalized if the offense has a clear impact on the penalty kick.

Goalkeepers will now receive a warning for a first offense rather than an immediate caution, acknowledging that such infractions often stem from mis-anticipation.

Regarding the kicker, the revisions continue to allow for deceptive movements and stutter-stepping during the run-up; however, the change strictly prohibits feinting once the approach to the ball is completed.

Finally, in rare instances where both the kicker and goalkeeper offend simultaneously, the kicker is penalized, as their illegal feinting is typically the catalyst for the goalkeeper's infraction. The penalty chart is also updated and reformatted for clarity.

RULE 14 -1-2

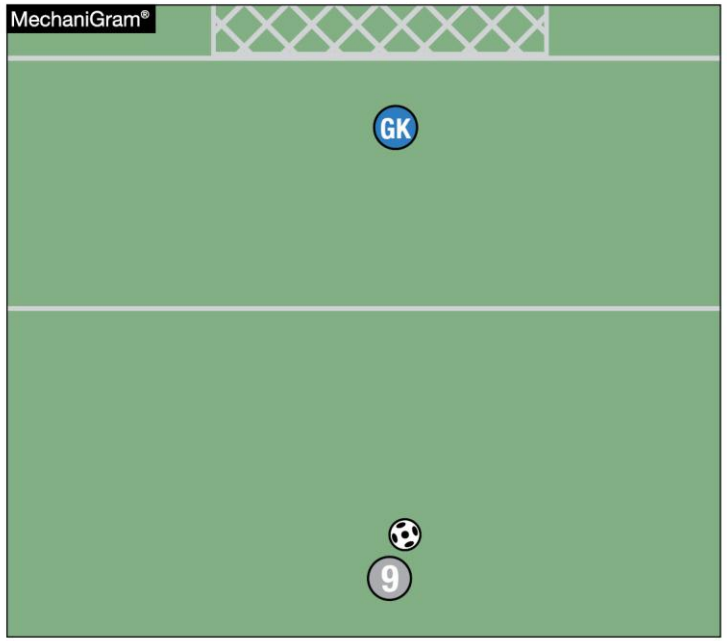


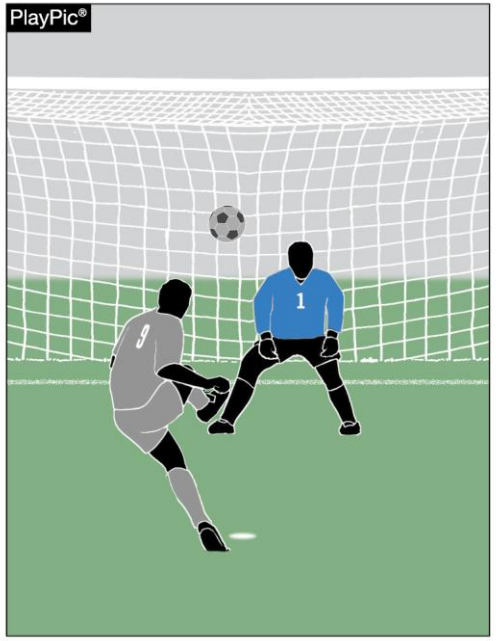
Impact

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.

PENALTY KICK
RULE 14 – KICKER FEINTING

Deceptive movements and stutter-stepping by the kicker during the run-up continue to be allowed.

However, feinting (or pretending to kick the ball) once the approach to the ball is completed is strictly prohibited.

This is an act of unsporting conduct that shall be cautioned and is enforced on the first and every subsequent occurrence.

PENALTY KICK SITUATIONS (14-1-2, 14-1-3, and 14-1-4)

Offense		Outcome of the Penalty Kick: Goal	Outcome of the Penalty Kick: No Goal
Defender encroaches	Impact	Goal	Retake
	No impact	Goal	No retake
Attacker encroaches	Impact	Retake	Indirect free kick
	No impact	Goal	No retake
Both teams encroach	Impact	Retake	Retake
	No impact	Goal	No retake
Goalkeeper offends	Impact	Goal	Retake (GK is warned or cautioned)
	No impact	Goal	If saved: retake (GK is warned or cautioned) If not saved: no retake
Kicker offends	Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick (wrong kicker is cautioned)	
	Illegal feinting	Indirect free kick (kicker is cautioned)	
	Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	
Goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time		Indirect free kick (kicker is cautioned)	

PENALTY KICK RULE 14 Penalty Chart

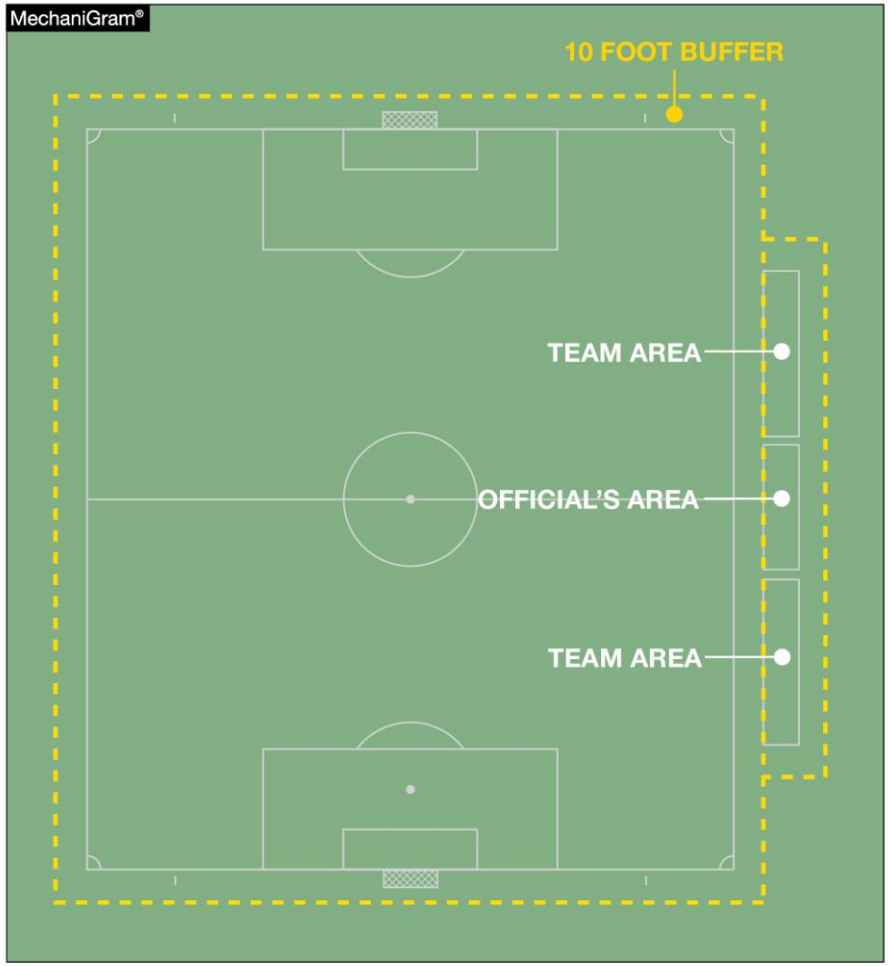
PENALTY KICK OFFENSES AND THE CONCEPT OF IMPACT

- 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.



2026-27 NFHS Soccer Points of Emphasis

PROPERLY MARKED FIELDS



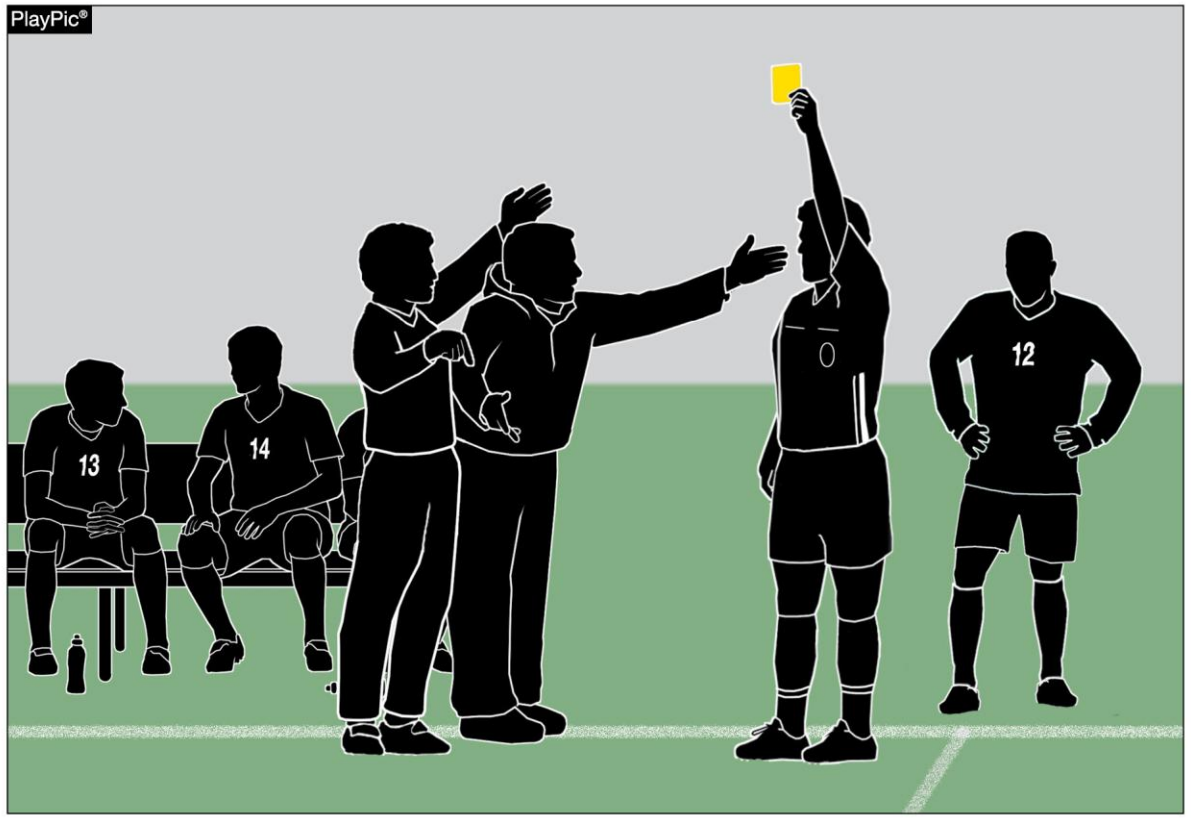
- Administrators, coaches, and officials must prioritize proper marking of team areas and the maintenance of the 10-foot buffer around the field boundary lines.
- Team areas extend 10 yards from each side of the halfway line for a total length of 20 yards, set back 10 feet from the touchline.
- Team areas must be clearly designated and marked by a solid line. When markings are missing, officials should work with administrators or coaches to place cones as temporary boundaries.
- Any violations of Rule 1-5-3 must be reported to the state association.

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



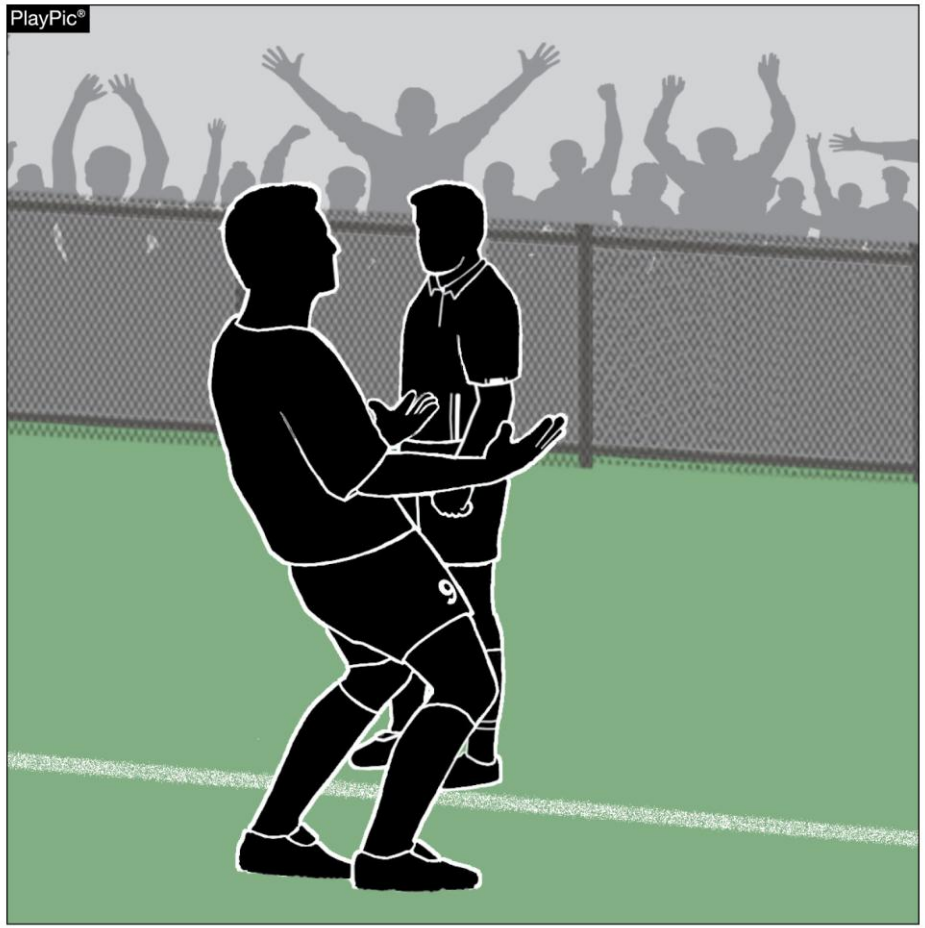
- When a caution or ejection is issued, officials advise the head coach using appropriate rulebook language. Both parties share responsibility for ensuring communication remains professional.
- Any dissent or inappropriate conduct should be addressed firmly and professionally. Coaches are accountable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

JEWELRY


IFAB
THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD


FIFA


NISOA


REFEREE PROGRAM

Nassau County Soccer Officials Association



NYS CERTIFIED OFFICIALS OF SOCCER



NEW MEMBERS!



BOCES UPDATE



3-MAN SYSTEM PROTOCOLS



GAME DAY PROTOCOLS

NCSOA (NASSAU BOYS) APPROVED UNIFORM * FALL '26

NASSAU COUNTY SOCCER

NCSOA

OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION





'ORIGINAL NISOA' JERSEY ONLY

YELLOW & ORANGE
REQUIRED FOR
ALL OFFICIALS
BOTH SHORT-SLEEVE
& LONG SLEEVE

BLUE OPTIONAL (Playoffs)

SOLID BLACK SHORTS
(No White/Colored Trim)



SOLID BLACK SOCKS
WITH 3-STRIPES AT TOP



REMINDERS

- **BEFORE MATCH, CONTACT**
  - **HOME SCHOOL** ***CONFIRM LOCATION & TIME***
  - **PARTNER** ***CONFIRM COLORS, LOCATION TO MEET (30 minutes B4 kickoff)***
- **WAIT FOR PARTNER** **If Late, Call or Text Partner**
- **CONDUCT PRE-GAME** **DETERMINE HEAD OFFICIAL**
- **20 MINUTES PRIOR TO MATCH PROCEED TO FIELD**
  - **WALK FIELD CHECK FIELD - GOALS, CORNER FLAGS – GAME BALLS (MIN. 3) (WALK TOGETHER, CONDUCT PRE-GAME IF NO CHANCE PRIOR)**
  - **AS YOU'RE WALKING FIELD TRY AND OBESRVE PLAYER EQUIPMENT (SHIN GUARDS)**
  - **APPROACH COACHES, BOTH REFEREES INTRODUCE THEMSELVES, HEAD OFFICIAL ASKS, RECEIVES ROSTER (MUST HAVE AT ALL LEVELS)**
- **5 MINUTES PRIOR TO KICKOFF, FOLLOW SPECIFIC PROCEDURE FOR HEAD COACHES & CAPTAIN'S MEETING**
- **FOLLOWING MEETING, EACH OFFICIAL GOES TO ONE TEAM, MUST READ SPORTSMANSHIP CARD TO THE TEAMS, ALL PLAYERS, COACHES & BENCH PERSONNEL**


BIC
BE ON LOOKOUT FOR MICRO SHIN GUARDS
ABSOLUTELY NO MICRO SHIN GUARDS PERMITTED
No one is to play at the NFHS level with illegal or improper shin guards



Coaches & Captains Meeting

LEGALLY & PROPERLY EQUIPPED

Pre-Game Procedures
REQUIRED FOR ALL MATCHES * ALL LEVELS

- 5 Minutes BEFORE Scheduled Kickoff, **Head Referee BLOW Whistle**, Clear Field
  - Call for Captains & **HEAD COACHES** of **BOTH Schools;** Bring them to Midfield
  - **BOTH REFEREES (OR CREW) ARE TO BE PRESENT**

- Head Referee addresses EACH HEAD COACH, stating the following:
  - Begin with Visiting Team; "Coach...Are all your players legally and properly equipped, including age sized appropriate shin guards and will remain so throughout the match? This includes NO jewelry unless approved by NYS" (Coach Responds "YES")
  - Repeat to Home Coach; "Coach...Are all your players legally and properly equipped, including age sized appropriate shin guards and will remain so throughout the match? This includes NO jewelry unless approved by NYS" (Coach Responds "YES")

  Excuse BOTH Head Coaches at this point

- Continue Pre-Game Conference with Captains



- JEWELRY
- GOAL CELEBRATIONS
- GK DISTRIBUTION



MISCONDUCT PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES





NCSOA MISCONDUCT REPORTING

YC

ONE OFFICIAL ONLY

Go to our website
www.nassausoccerofficialassociation.com
Click on NCSOA misconduct report
Complete form.
One form per YC/RC incident.

RC

ONE OFFICIAL ONLY

BOTH OFFICIALS



CALL Steve Danisi
516 – 263 - 9318

Go to our website
www.nassausoccerofficialassociation.com
Click on Sec VIII unsportsmanlike incident report and complete.


TREASURER'S
REPORT



FALL 2027
$125.00
DUE BY
11/1/26

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



NOMINATIONS OPEN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD



NCSOA ELECTIONS 2026 – 27

Thursday September 24th



ANNUAL DINNER
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
PATRIZIA'S MASSAPEQUA PARK
7:00 PM



NEXT MEETING:

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3rd
7:30 PM
MERRICK GOLF CLUB

MODIFIED INTERPRETATION

3-MAN SYSTEM & AR MECHANICS

NOMINATIONS



GOOD LUCK & HAVE A GREAT SEASON !

Send Money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay

NC

NASSAU COUNTY SOCCER OFFICIALS

t***f@gmail.com