

SOCCER ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 26, 2024



BOYS SOCCER – RED CARD/EJECTION DATA

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>TOTAL = PLAYERS + COACHES + FANS</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 2019 | 118 = 111 + 7 |
| 2020 | 84 = 79 + 5 |
| 2021 | 116 = 110 + 6 |
| 2022 | 111 = 97 + 14 |
| 2023 | 165 = 155 + 5 + 5 |
| 2024 | 57 = 53 + 2 + 2 (as of 9-25-24) |

SPORTSMANSHIP

#StartsWithMe



The better all involved know the rules, follow the rules, and enforce the rules, the fewer cards issued and improved, higher-quality play occurs. Red cards for violent conduct, taunting, and insulting-offensive-abusive language/gesture (profanity) should be minimal. Sportsmanship, proper behavior, and language can be expected and carried out by all participants. Coaches, team captains, upperclassmen can set the tone and hold themselves and everyone else on their teams accountable. Officials can set the tone at the beginning of contests during the pregame meetings with coaches and captains by establishing their expectations for behavior, language, and play and issuing cards when appropriate early in games. Clearly setting expectations and following them creates a positive playing environment. Also, addressing unsporting conduct including reckless play, profane language, and dissent when it occurs early in contests can be proactive and preventative for rougher play, harsher language/dissent, and potential injuries later in games.

31 Red Cards this season have been direct Red Cards:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 = exhibiting violent conduct | 12 = denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity |
| 1 = taunting | 10 = using insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture |
| 7 = committing serious foul play | |

Teach, role model, prioritize, and expect good sportsmanship!

Cards can be issued after the conclusion of a contest if warranted while officials are leaving the field of play and its immediate surroundings.

NFHS/KSHSAA Soccer Contests are education-based. For teaching and learning purposes, communication between the officials and the head coaches is imperative. Explanation, not debate or argument, of carded situations should take place.

Taunting/excessive celebrating in front of/near an opponent's team area should not be allowed and should be addressed immediately with appropriate disqualifications/cautions.

2024-25 NFHS SOCCER POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Stopping a Promising Attack

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. 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. Sections 7 and 8 in Rule 12 highlight the importance of discerning the nature of these types of tactical offenses for consistent and fair officiating.

Like DOGSO situations, 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 the nuanced dynamics of play and maintain a tactical awareness of the advancing phase of play to recognize SPA incidents. Referees are tasked with evaluating multiple factors to determine the promise of an attack, encompassing elements like player positioning, ball control, defensive presence, skill, and the pace of the game. Importantly, any foul that unfairly stops or interrupts a promising attack is considered misconduct, warranting a caution and a yellow card for the offending player. 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. 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.

After a Goal

After a goal is scored, officials must stay alert as there are several important considerations and tasks to manage. In addition to lower priority administrative tasks, officials must be vigilant after a goal for any signs of escalating tension or potential misconduct and address any issues promptly to prevent situations from escalating. Key aspects of concern include:

- Working as a team with other officials (i.e., lead assistant referee) to determine if the ball was, in fact, scored properly by wholly crossing the goal line, under the crossbar, and between the goal posts. The crew must ensure that the goal was legally scored and there were no infringements or violations during the buildup to the goal. This includes checking for any potential offside offenses by the attacking team that would prompt the goal to be disallowed.
- Observing players' reactions and behaviors after the goal 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. 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, recognize it and deal with it firmly and fairly according to the rules.
- Monitoring player celebrations to prevent excessive or inappropriate behavior. While celebrating after a goal is allowable, which might include leaving the field, players cannot prohibit a timely restart with excessive or prolonged acts. This includes unsporting gestures, removal of shirts, taunting, or any actions that could incite the opposing team or spectators.
- Record keeping and beckoning in substitutes. The crew should include in their pre-game discussion how to maintain the game record while also managing players after a goal is scored. The crew should establish before the game who is responsible for keeping an eye on the field while another official is recording in their book. Either team may substitute an unlimited number of players from the bench provided they check-in. Officials need to be mindful of those substitutes which may trickle in and work together as a crew to recognize substitutes wanting to enter the game.

After a goal, there is much more to do than just adding a tally mark in the book. 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.