

**2003 NCAA SOCCER RULES CHANGES**  
**(Revised August 1, 2003)**

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The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee conducted its annual meeting February 4-7, 2003 in St. Pete Beach, Florida and later conferred via telephone conference call approving certain changes for the 2003 playing season which are digested below.

**Rule 1 - The Field of Play**

**Approved Ruling 6**

**May goal nets be lettered or reflect school names, logos, slogans or any other commercial design? RULING: No.**

*Comment: This change now permits multi-color goal nets in view of current manufacturing standards, but continues to prohibit personalization.*

**Approved Ruling 7**

**Are coaches permitted in the center circle at the taking of kicks from the mark? RULING: No.**

**Approved Ruling 8**

**Are bench personnel in the press box permitted to communicate in any way with coaches in the coaching and team areas? RULING: No. Coaches and other bench personnel shall remain in their own coaching and team area.**

*Comment: This ruling was drafted in response to a specific inquiry as to the permissibility of radio or telephone communication.*

**Rule 3 - Players and Substitutes**

**RULE 3§ 5.**

SECTION 5. With reference to periods of play, substitutions are permitted as follows:

***First half: No reentry.***

***Second half: No reentry.***

***First overtime period: No reentry.***

***Second overtime period: No reentry.***

*Comment: This change prohibits the return of a player who was substituted for in that same period. A player who is replaced may reenter in any subsequent period. The committee made the change in an effort to improve the flow of the*

*game, lessen game times and promote student-athlete safety.*

**Approved Ruling 29**

**May a player who has been removed from the game for an equipment change return? RULING: Yes, if the player was not substituted for while completing the equipment change, the player may return. No, if another player was substituted for the player with the equipment change, the original player may not reenter the game in the period in which he or she was replaced.**

**Approved Ruling 33**

**May a player who is replaced in the first overtime period reenter in *the second overtime* period? RULING: Yes.**

**Approved Ruling 36**

**A player is cautioned and substituted for at the time of the caution. May the player reenter in that same period? RULING: No.**

**Approved Ruling 37**

**An injured player is replaced in the second half, and an opposing player is cautioned or ejected as a result of the injury. The injured player(s) subsequently returns to the game in that half and later is substituted for again. Is he or she permitted one additional reentry? RULING: No. Under the conditions set forth in Rule 3-5 a player(s) is not permitted to reenter the period in which he/she was replaced. Exception: Player(s) who are substituted for as a result of an injury caused by an opponent(s) who was cautioned or ejected in conjunction with the injury is permitted one reentry in that period.**

**RULE 3 § 6**

**SECTION 6. A substitute shall report to the scorekeeper's table (or nearest assistant referee if the official scorekeeper is in the press box), be ready to enter the game before the time when substitutions are allowed remain at the scorekeeper's table (or near the halfway line) and be beckoned by the referee before entering the field of play. **To facilitate substitutions, a noise-producing instrument with a distinctly different tone (a horn is suggested) from the referee's signaling device shall be provided. In addition, *during the final five minutes of the second period only*, the referee shall signal that the clock be stopped and beckon the substitute(s) onto the field.****

*Comment: This is a significant change regarding timing. The committee felt that this change, whereby the clock is stopped during the final five (5) minutes only, will eliminate potential differences between divisions, eliminate excessive gamesmanship and still allow a trailing team the*

*opportunity to win in the final minutes of the game.*

**Approved Ruling 45**

**When does a substitute become a field player of record?**  
**RULING:** During the first 85 minutes of the game and during both overtime periods: At the moment the referee beckons the players onto the field. In the last five minutes of the second regulation period: When the referee signals the clock to be stopped.

**Approved Ruling 46**

**Does a player(s) have to enter the field of play after the referee has beckoned or signaled the clock to be stopped for a substitution(s)?** **RULING:** No. However, the player(s) shall be charged with one substitution entry.

**Approved Ruling 47**

**Multiple players have reported to the scorekeeper (or assistant referee) to enter the game as substitutes. The referee beckons or signals to stop the clock (last five minutes of second period) and the coach decides to hold one player back. Is that player charged with a substitution entry?** **RULING:** Yes.

**Rule 5 - The Referee**

**RULE 5 § 5**

***SECTION 5. The referee has discretionary power to:***  
***g. Suspend the game, stop the clock and direct the game management personnel to remove artificial noisemakers, air horns, electronic amplifiers and any other items that are not permitted from the spectators areas.***

**Rule 6 - Other Officials and Their Duties**

**RULE 6 §3-b(1)**

The timekeeper shall stop the clock when signaled by the referee to do so:  
(a) For a television timeout,  
(b) Because a player has been instructed to leave the field for an equipment change,  
(c) To assess a player's injuries,  
(d) Because a player has been instructed to leave the field for a jewelry violation,  
(e) ***When a substitute(s) is beckoned onto the field in the final five minutes of the second period only, and***  
(f) ***Because a trainer or other bench personnel is beckoned onto the field.***

*Comment: This clarifies the obligation of the timekeeper to stop the clock for substitution(s) during the final five (5) minutes of the second period only.*

### **Rule 7 - Duration of the Game**

#### **RULE 7 § 1-b**

**For postseason games, which include conference tournaments, play-ins and NCAA tournament games, two sudden-victory overtime periods of 10 minutes each shall be played. If the score still is tied, the game shall be recorded as a draw and the tiebreaker procedure of taking kicks from the penalty-kick line or spot, as set forth below, shall be used to determine advancement. The winner of the penalty kicks during the national championship game only will be declared the winner for all purposes, including the record.**

#### **Approved Ruling 96**

***When is a game result determined a draw? RULING: Under the 2003 tiebreaker rule, all postseason games - except the national championship game – decided by the penalty kick tiebreaker is recorded as a draw and the team scoring the greater number of goals advances to the next game round (see Rule 7-1-b).***

### **Rule 12 - Violations and Misconduct**

#### **RULE 12§ 2**

**A player, coach or bench personnel shall be penalized if he or she deliberately strikes or attempts to strike another player, coach or bench personnel in a malicious manner or leaves the bench or coaching area to participate in an altercation.**

**PENALTY—Ejection and multiple-game suspension (see Rule 12-16-b).**

***After a fight has occurred, the referee shall inform the player(s), the head coach and the official scorekeeper that an ejection for fighting has been issued. The scorekeeper shall note the fighting ejection in the scorebook.***

***After the game, the referee shall contact the NISOA regional representative by telephone and transmit by facsimile a completed fight reporting form.***

*Comment: This change adds the requirement that the referee promptly transmit by facsimile the completed fight reporting form for distribution to all involved parties.*

## **2003 LANGUAGE RULE PROPOSAL**

The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee proposed a change to Rule 12 for the 2003 season, requiring that any participant who uses foul or abusive language be ejected.

Under the proposed change to Rule 12, if the referee hears foul or abusive language, the offender must be issued a red card and ejected from the game. The only question is the severity of the punishment, as follows:

1. If the foul or abusive language was incidental or unintentional, the offending party will receive a red "language" card, will be ejected from the game, may be replaced and will not incur an additional one game suspension.
2. If the foul or abusive language was with malicious intent, the offending party will be ejected from the game, and if that individual is a player, the team will play short, and the offending party will sit out the next regularly scheduled game.

Due to time constraints and logistical issues, the NCAA instructed NISOA to prepare and disseminate the 2003 pre-season educational materials, including the NCAA Soccer Rules Changes Videotape, the written summary detailing the rule changes and the annual refresher test, based upon the assumption that the proposed rule change would be adopted.

**On August 1, 2003, the NCAA issued a memorandum entitled "Zero-Tolerance Foul Language Rule" advising the proposed rule change will not be in effect for the 2003 season.**

A copy of the entire memorandum is available at [www.nisoa.com](http://www.nisoa.com) under the heading "NCAA Zero Tolerance Foul Language Memorandum."

Accordingly, the NCAA soccer rule relating to foul language will be the same as in the 2002 NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Book, R.12:14-d and R:15-g, requiring the issuance of a yellow or red card, dependent upon the circumstances.

***Official NCAA interpretations can be obtained at a website addressing frequently asked questions and rule interpretations answered by Secretary-Rules Editor C. Cliff McCrath at: [NCAA.org](http://NCAA.org). Go to Sports and Championships and follow the prompts to Interpretations to access this benefit.***