

National Federation of State High School Associations



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Soccer Sports/Rules Information

[Soccer Rule Changes
2004-05](#) Release Date: 2/2/04

[Few changes made in high
school soccer rules](#) Release
Date: 2/2/04

[2004-05 NFHS SOCCER
RULES COMMITTEE POINTS
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[COMMENTS ON THE
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[Rules Interpretations](#) Release
Date: 11/7/03

[NFHS Official Soccer
Signals](#) Release Date: 4/30/03

[Soccer Field Diagram,
Instructions for Scorer, Timer,
Assistant Referees, Ball
Holders](#) Release Date: 2/21/03

National Federation of State High School Associations Soccer Sports/Rules Information

Soccer Rule Changes 2004-05

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Rule 1-4-1: Add the following to the existing rule: *The vertical portion of the goal post may be padded with commercially manufactured material for soccer goals. This material shall be white, have a maximum thickness of one inch, be a minimum of 72 inches high and shall be properly secured. No markings other than a single manufacturer's identification/logo may appear on the goal post padding.*

Rule 3-3-1(d)2: d. Replace, "when an injured player(s) from either team is attended to on the field:" with "*when a player(s) from either team is injured:*

2. The injured player(s) shall leave the field and may be replaced."

Rule 3-3-3: The team NOT in possession of the ball may substitute an unlimited number of players at a throw-in *or corner kick* if the team in possession of the ball is also substituting (provided the substitutions have checked in per 3-4-1(d).

Rule 4-1-1: The required player equipment includes a jersey, shorts, stockings, suitable shoes and shinguards which shall provide adequate and reasonable protection, be professionally manufactured, *age and size* appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, worn under the stockings, and worn with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle (see illustrations regarding shinguards).

Rule 5-3-1(b): *Delete "and assists."* Currently the line reads as follows: "The referee also must signal the timekeeper when the clock is to be stopped and confirm for the scorekeeper the players to be credited with goals *and assists.*"

Assistant Referee Signals: *There is a commonly accepted signal by which the assistant referee in the diagonal system of officiating indicates to the referee that he/she has seen a foul or misconduct. The flag is held vertically by the assistant referee until acknowledged by the referee. Once acknowledged, the assistant referee shall wiggle the flag and point the flag in the direction where the free kick will take place.*

Major Editorial Changes 2004-05
(changes/additions/deletions in italics)

Rule 4-1-1(b): Except for the uniform of the goalkeeper, jersey, shorts and stockings of teammates shall be of *similar* color, design and pattern.

Rule 8-1-4: After the kickoff, the ball may be played by any player except the one who kicked off. The kicker may not play the ball until it has been played or *touched* by another player on either team.

Rule 9-1-2(d): *Delete item d, "fter a free kick or kickoff," and reletter the remainder of the list.*

Rule 12-8-2(a): Change to *"a. taunting " use of word or act to incite or degrade an opposing player, coach, referee or other individual."*

Rule 12-8-2(b): b. *Delete "excessive celebration (see definition 18-1-1)" and replace with "any delayed, excessive or prolonged act(s) by which a player(s) attempts to focus attention upon himself/herself and/or prohibits a timely restart of the game."*

Rule 12-8-3-b: *Change "committing serious foul play" to: "committing serious foul play, that is any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick (or penalty kick if the offense takes place in the penalty area) and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force when playing for the ball against an opponent. Serious foul play includes the following:"*

Rule 14-1-6: If the ball touches the goalkeeper before passing between the goal posts, when a penalty kick is taken at or after the expiration of time, it does not nullify any goal. If necessary, play may be extended so that the penalty kick may be taken. *If a penalty kick is taken after the expiration of time (7-1-4 EXCEPTION):*

a. Only the kicker may play the ball, and he/she may only play the ball once;

b. The ball is in play until its momentum has been spent, it goes out of bounds, or is retouched by the kicker.

Rule 15-1-2: The thrower shall use both hands (*unless a physical impairment would limit use to one hand*) and shall deliver the ball from behind and over the head in one continuous movement.

Warning about the Inherent Dangers of Soccer

Student athletes and parents should be aware that Soccer, like all sports, will

always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in this sport, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

The NFHS encourages student athletes in all sports, and their parents, to discuss risks and risk minimization with coaches, school administrators and state high school association officials.

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