



2015-16 SOCCER RULES CHANGES

3-3-3(e) (new)	Since the clock is stopped when bench personnel are cautioned or disqualified, substitutes from both teams who have already reported may be beckoned by the referee and may enter the field of play. Previously, there was no provision for substitutes to enter the field of play during this type of stoppage.
4-1-1(h)3	Currently, the jersey of the goalkeeper must be distinctly different in color from his/her teammates and opposing field players. To differentiate opponents, it is important that the goalkeeper's socks be included in this rule. Therefore, the goalkeeper's socks must differ in color from the opposing field players.

2015-16 SOCCER EDITORIAL CHANGES

1.7 Situation B	During the course of a game, a downpour occurs. The head referee or center referee suspends the contest. RULING: Legal.
3-3-2(b)2	If the referee stops the clock for an apparent injury to a field player or goalkeeper, the field player or goalkeeper will have to leave the field. The field player may be replaced, and the goalkeeper shall be replaced by either a substitute or a field player.
3-3-3(c)2	If a disqualified goalkeeper is being replaced during a penalty kick situation, the substitute may not take the penalty kick.
3-3-3(d)1	An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform or has blood on his/her person shall be directed to leave the field until the bleeding has stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition. That player shall leave the field and may be replaced from the bench.
3.3.2 Situation E	Delete former 3.3.2 SITUATION E
3.3.3 Situation J	Player A2 is injured during the course of play but manages to hobble across the touchline to avoid disrupting play and to allow the game to continue. At the next stoppage in play (not necessarily a stoppage for which Team A would normally be permitted to substitute), the coach for Team A substitutes for Player A2 directly from the bench. RULING: Illegal, unless Player A2 has been disqualified under the provisions of 12-8 that do not permit a substitution and provided that the other prerequisites for proper substitution have been met.
3.3.3 Situation K	Team A substitutes an unlimited number of players that reported prior to (a) a player caution, (b) an injured player is required to leave the field, (c) a player has blood on his/her uniform or (d) a bench personnel caution or disqualification. RULING: Legal in (a), (b), (c) and (d).
3.3.3 Situations	Former Situation 3.3.2 A-L changed to 3.3.3 A-L and 3.3.3 Situation A-E changed to 3.3.3 Situation M-P
4-1-1(b)	Both socks shall be the same color, with the home team wearing solid white socks and the visiting team wearing socks of a single dominant color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey. If tape or a similar material (stays/straps) is applied externally to the socks, it must be of similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied.

4-1-1(f)	One American flag, not to exceed 2 inches by 3 inches, may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey without compromising its integrity.
4-1-1(h)2	Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team jersey and/or shorts as well as undergarments and goalkeeper pants, except as in 4-1-1(f). The player's name may also appear on the team uniform.
4.1.1 Situation N	Player A enters the game wearing (a) white socks with white tape/stays/straps, (b) blue socks with blue tape/stays/straps, (c) red socks with black tape/stays/straps, (d) white socks with green tape/stays/straps. RULING: (a) legal, (b) legal, (c) illegal and (d) illegal.
4-2-7	<p>A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral), if worn, shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) portion; b. include a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion; c. cover the posterior teeth with adequate thickness; d. be made of any readily visible color; e. not be completely white; and f. not be completely clear. <p>NOTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is recommended that the protector be properly fitted, protecting the anterior (leading) dental arch and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. constructed from a model made from an impression of the individual's teeth, or 2. constructed and fitted to the individual by impressing the teeth into the tooth and mouth protector itself. 2. State associations may deem a tooth and mouth protector required equipment.
4-2-8	A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of hard material, but must be worn molded to the face. A medical release for the injured player signed by an appropriate health-care professional shall be available at the game site.
11-1-3	It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position.
11-1-4	Player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player is involved in active play and interferes with play or with an opponent or seeks to gain an advantage by being in that position.
12-8-1(g)	Using tobacco products or electronic cigarettes at the game site during the period of the jurisdiction of the officials.
12.8.1 Situation C	During the game, while the ball is in play, (a) Coach A talks on a cell phone, (b) Coach B records video using a tablet, (c) Player A1 wears an electronic heart monitor, (d) A2 wears a hearing aid, (e) Coach A communicated with player A3 using a wireless mic/headphone system. RULING: (a) Legal; (b) legal; (c) legal; (d) legal; and (e) illegal and coach is shown the yellow card for misconduct per 12-8-1(e).
Rules Comparison	The 2015-16 rules book contains an updated comparison of the major differences among NFHS and NCAA rules and FIFA laws.

2015-16 SOCCER POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Heat Acclimatization and Safety Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that Exertional Heatstroke (EHS) is the leading preventable cause of death among high school athletes. • Know the importance of a formal pre-season heat acclimatization plan. • Know the importance of having and implementing a specific hydration plan, keeping your athletes well-hydrated, and encouraging and providing ample opportunities for regular fluid replacement. • Know the importance of appropriately modifying activities in relation to the environmental heat stress and contributing individual risk factors (e.g., illness, obesity) to keep your athletes safe and performing well. • Know the importance for all members of the coaching staff to closely monitor all athletes during practice and training in the heat, and recognize the signs and symptoms of developing heat illnesses. • Know the importance of, and resources for, establishing an emergency action plan and promptly implementing it in case of suspected EHS or other medical emergency.
Fighting/Reckless Play	Players, coaches, game officials and spectators must work together to model and demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play, to minimize risk and to maximize participation.
Tape or Similar Materials on Socks	If tape or a similar material (stays/straps) is applied externally to the socks, it must be of similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied. (Home tape/stays/straps = white, Away tape/stays/straps = similar color of socks)
Communication	Game officials are encouraged to effectively communicate with one another as well as with players and coaches throughout the game.
Goal Kick	Players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball has cleared the penalty area.