



# 2015-16 NFHS SOCCER RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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**SITUATION 1:** A referee inspecting the field prior to the game detects (a) center circle spot 9 inches in diameter; (b) an "X" intersecting the halfway line; (c) no mark other than the halfway line. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) legal; (c) illegal. (1.2.4 Situation)

**NOTE:** Referee should notify home institution to correct the situation, but should not delay the start of play.

**SITUATION 2:** During the course of a game, a downpour occurs. The head referee or center referee suspends the contest. **RULING:** Legal. (1.7 Situation B)

**SITUATION 3:** Player A is injured while on the field and play is stopped. Both teams substitute three players from the bench before play resumes. **RULING:** Illegal. Unlimited substitutions are permitted, but the substitutes must check in and be beckoned in by the referee as per Rule 3-4-1a. (3.3.3 Situation A)

**SITUATION 4:** A goal is scored and Team A elects to substitute four players from the bench without being beckoned by the referee. **RULING:** Illegal. All players must report per Rule 3-4-1a and be beckoned by the referee. (3.3.3 Situation B)

**SITUATION 5:** The goalkeeper goes down after making a save and remains motionless for a few seconds with the ball in his/her possession. The official stops the clock to assess a possible injury. The referee determines that he/she is able to continue play immediately. No attendants are beckoned and play is restarted with an indirect free kick. **RULING:** Illegal. Whenever the referee stops the clock

for a possible injury, the player or goalkeeper must leave the field. (3.3.3 Situation C)

**SITUATION 6:** An attacker collides with the opponent's goalkeeper and both appear to be injured; the referee stops the clock and beckons the coaches to attend to their players. Both players leave the field, but neither coach chooses to replace his or her injured player. **RULING:** Legal for field player, and illegal not to have a designated goalkeeper. (3.3.3 Situation D)

**SITUATION 7:** Players A2 and B2 hit heads in attempting to head the ball and both are injured. In the opinion of the referee, player A2 exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion. **RULING:** Player A2 shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. (3.3.3 Situation E)

**SITUATION 8:** Player A2 goes down and is apparently injured. Following a preliminary examination, the official stops the clock and beckons A2's coach or athletic trainer onto the field to attend to the injured player, but they refuse to comply. **RULING:** The injured player must be removed and may be replaced. (3.3.3 Situation F)

**SITUATION 9:** Player A2 (a) is injured and attended to on the field; (b) is issued a yellow card for a cautionable offense. Although in both instances Player A2 must leave the field, Team A coach elects to play one player short. **RULING:** Legal. (3.3.3 Situation G)

**SITUATION 10:** Player A2 is injured. After examining Player A2, the referee stops the clock and beckons A2's coach or athletic trainer onto the field to attend to the injured player. (a) Athletic trainer for Team A attends to the injured player while Coach A gives instruction to players on the field; (b) Coach A attends to the injured player and gives instruction as she/he walks out and back; (c) opposing Coach B calls his team to the sideline and gives instruction to the team; (d) Coach A, while on the sideline, calls for a substitute for A2 and gives instruction to the substitute. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b), (c) and (d). (3.3.3 Situation H)

**SITUATION 11:** Player A2 leaves the field due to an injury and the team elects to play shorthanded. After the game has been restarted, (a) Player A12 replaces Player A2; (b) Player A2 re-enters the field. **RULING:** (a) Player A12 may enter the game only at the next legal substitution opportunity; (b) Player A2 may re-enter the field at the next stoppage of play. (3.3.3 Situation I)

**SITUATION 12:** 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 not been met. **COMMENT:** An injured player leaving the field under his/her own power would not be considered a violation of 12-8-1a. (3.3.3 Situation J)

**SITUATION 13:** 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 Situation K)

**SITUATION 14:** Player A fouls Opponent B in the penalty area, resulting in a penalty kick for Team B. Player A is disqualified for receiving a second caution. Player B leaves the game due to an injury, or because of communicable disease concerns. (a) The substitute for Player B takes the penalty kick; (b) Player A is a goalkeeper and a substitute replaces him/her. **RULING:** (a) Incorrect procedure. A substitute entering the game shall not take the penalty kick. (b) Legal. (3.3.3 Situation L)

**SITUATION 15:** Goalkeeper A fouls Opponent B in the penalty area resulting in a penalty kick for Team B. Goalkeeper A is disqualified for committing serious foul play. Team A is permitted to substitute a goalkeeper from the bench but must have a field player leave the field. **RULING:** Team A must play short due to the disqualification (12-8-2) but must have a goalkeeper (3-1-1). (3.3.3 Situation M)

**SITUATION 16:** An official observes a direct free kick foul by the defense in the penalty area, blows the whistle, stops play and indicates a penalty kick; the official simultaneously indicates an injured player and issues a caution for persistent infringement to the player committing the foul. The coaches, having no players at the scorer's table, substitute for the injured and cautioned player from the bench. **RULING:** Legal. The injured player and cautioned player must be removed. The penalty kick must be taken by a player who was a player at the time the whistle stopped play. (3.3.3 Situation N)

**SITUATION 17:** Team A substitutes an unlimited number of players from the bench after (a) a caution, (b) an injured player is required to leave the field or (c) after a goal is scored. **RULING:** (a) Illegal; (b) legal and (c) legal providing the substitutes check in and are beckoned in by the referee. (3.3.3 Situation O)

**SITUATION 18:** Player A2 is issued a yellow card for misconduct and makes a profane remark to the referee: (a) the substitute has not been beckoned onto the field; (b) the substitute has been beckoned onto the field. **RULING:** (a) A2 is issued a red card and the team plays short; (b) A2 is issued a red card and the substitute is allowed to participate. (3.3.3 Situation P)

**SITUATION 19:** Prior to the game, the referee (a) recognizes that Team A

has two goalkeepers, one with a red jersey and the number 15 on the back and front and one with a blue jersey with the number 15 on the back and front; (b) the goalkeeper wears socks that match his/her teammates; (c) the goalkeeper wears socks that match his/her opposing field players. **RULING:** (a) Illegal. The goalkeepers must have different numbers and these should have been recorded on the roster. (b) Legal. (c) Illegal. (4.1.1 Situation I)

**SITUATION 20:** 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. (4.1.1 Situation N)

**SITUATION 21:** 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). (12.8.1 Situation C)