



## 2016 NFHS SOCCER RULES REVISIONS:

4-2-9 NEW	<p><b><i>A soft-padded headband is permitted.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This change permits the use of soft-padded headbands, referencing relevant ASTM standards. This clarifies that soft-padded headbands are permitted for all players. Previously the information was only found in a situation.</p>
11-1-4	<p>A 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. <b><i>A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This change clarifies that a player in an offside position that receives the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball is not guilty of an offside infraction. However, if the player receives the ball from a deliberate save, he/she gains an advantage and is considered offside. The addition of this information aligns NFHS with other rules codes.</p>
14-1-4	<p>Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement. <b><i>Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a re-kick and will be considered a violation by the attacking team, and the appropriate penalties shall apply.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This rule change affects a player taking a penalty kick who interrupts their movement to the ball. The referee will now consider it as any other violation by a member of the attacking team and will use the Penalty Kick Situations Chart for guidance on how to handle the infraction</p>
18-1-1 NEW o	<p><b><i>GAINING AN ADVANTAGE BY BEING IN THAT POSITION – A player who plays a ball that rebounds to him/her off a goal post or the crossbar after having been in an offside position, or a player who after being in an offside position plays a ball that rebounds to him/her off an opponent, who has not deliberately played the ball or made a deliberate save.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Gaining an advantage by being in that position in in Rule 11-1-4, but it has never been defined. This new definition aligns NFHS with other rule codes.</p>
18-1-1 NEW u	<p><b><i>INTERFERING WITH AN OPPONENT – Preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or movement of challenging an opponent for the ball.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Interfering with an opponent is in Rule 11-1-4, but it has never been defined. This new definition aligns NFHS with other rules codes.</p>
18-1-1 NEW v	<p><b><i>INTERFERING WITH PLAY – Playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a teammate.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Interfering with play is in Rule 11-1-4, but what it means has never been defined. This new definition aligns NFHS with other rules codes.</p>



## **2016 NFHS SOCCER EDITORIAL CHANGES:**

1-2-1	<p>The field of play shall be marked in accordance with the <b><i>Soccer Field diagram</i></b>, on the previous page, with non-caustic, distinctively colored material that is not injurious to the participants.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The provisions of this rule refer to a “diagram” in the first sentence. There is little doubt the reference is to the previous page that contains a diagram of a soccer field. It is advantageous and clearer to simply add: “Soccer Field” before diagram.</p>
1-2-10	<p>A 1-yard-long hash mark may be made perpendicular to the goal line, <b><i>but not touching</i></b>, outside the field of play 11 yards from the corner of the field to assist the officials in enforcement of encroachment during corner kicks.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This helps clarify the fact that this marking is in no way on the field.</p>
1-2 Play Rulings	<p><b><i>Add State Association notification to 1.2.4 and 1.2.6</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> 1.2.1B, 1.2.4, and 1.2.6 all deal with improper markings on the field. In 1.2.1B, the referee is directed to notify the state association. However, in 1.2.4 and 1.2.6, they are directed to only notify the home coach.</p>
1-4-2	<p>Nets shall be attached to the posts and crossbar and be firmly fastened to the ground behind the goals. Each net shall be supported so that it will extend backward to the level of the crossbar for a distance of 24 inches from the crossbar. No advertising other than a single manufacturer’s identification/logo, may appear on the net. <b><i>Nets may be multicolored; however, no markings other than a single manufacturer’s identification/logo may appear on the net.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> There have been many questions in recent years concerning the color of the net and whether school logos, names, mascots, etc. can be placed on the net. This addition will be consistent with responses that were given to these questions.</p>
1-5	<p>There shall be <b><i>marked</i></b> areas for each team’s bench, separated by an official area for entering substitutes, scorers and timers. These <b><i>marked</i></b> areas shall be at least 10 feet from the touchline.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> In many, if not most cases, the team areas are not marked. This rule change will give specific directions on marking the team areas.</p>
1-6	<p><b><i>No one shall be permitted directly behind either goal unless seated in bleachers.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Removing the word “seated” helps to avoid confusion on where fans should be if directly behind the goal.</p>
3-3-3 Situation J	<p>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 substitutions <b><i>have not been met.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The word “not” was inadvertently removed from the ruling.</p>



4-1-1h2	<p>Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team jersey and/or shorts, as well as on <b>visible undergarments</b> and goalkeeper pants, except as in 4-1-1(f). The player's name may also appear on the team uniform.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Logos, etc. on garments that are not normally visible on the field (e.g. sports bras, athletic supporters) are not a problem in the conduct of an interscholastic contest. It would also be in appropriate for coaches or officials to be checking those garments for possible violations of the rule as it is currently written.</p>
4-1-1i (second sentence)	<p>Shoes with soles containing metal (aluminum, magnesium, titanium, etc.), leather, rubber, nylon or plastic cleats, studs, or bars, whether molded as part of the sole or detachable, are allowed as long as the referee does not consider them dangerous.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Second clause simply duplicates first clause about referee ruling whether they are dangerous or not. Whether they are dangerous or not does not depend on whether they have been altered or not.</p>
4-1-1 Situation H	<p>Ruling . . . If unable to correct, the game shall be played and referee must notify the state association following the game.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Changed to the "state association" as used in other parts of the book.</p>
4-1-2	<p>It is recommended that team captains wear an upper arm band of a contrasting color. <b><i>The captain's band, if worn, shall be worn on the upper arm.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The added gives specific direction as to the expectation of where the arm band should be worn.</p>
4-2-9 Situation	<p>During pregame warm-up, the referee observes A5 wearing a soft-padded headband. <b>RULING:</b> Legal. <b>COMMENT:</b> The use of a soft-padded soccer headband is permitted but not required.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The term headgear suggests headband and helmet.</p>
12-8-1 Situation C	<p>During the game, while the ball is in play, (c) Player A1 wears an electric heart monitor on his/her chest under the jersey.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The additional wording is needed because there are heart monitors that are worn on the wrist that would be illegal.</p>
12-8-2	<p><b><i>PENALTY: A disqualified player must leave the field and may not return or be substituted for, and the player's team must play short. The disqualified player is restricted to the team area. Disqualified team members who are not players are restricted to the team area and may not enter the game. Disqualified adult team personnel must leave the vicinity of the playing area.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> In Article 1, a "penalty" is clearly laid out where the player shall leave the field. However, Article 2 does not have a similar provision. Adding this and making it clear the team shall not be allowed to replace the player adds clarity.</p>



## **2016 NFHS SOCCER POINTS OF EMPHASIS:**

Rough Play	Rough play, including contact above the shoulder often results in player injury. Officials and players must eliminate rough play from the game. Officials should deal with rough play by giving appropriate penalties immediately when the rough play occurs.
Team Member Equipment Check	Because of the number of recent rules changes involving uniforms and equipment, officials are encouraged to informally check the equipment of team members before the game to prevent possible player equipment violations occurring during the game.
Referee Checking for Injury After a Goal	After the clock is stopped for a goal and the referee examines a player, including a goalkeeper, for a possible injury, that player will not have to leave the game unless the coach and/or medical personnel are beckoned onto the field to check the player. If the referee beckons the coach and/or medical personnel, the player, including a goalkeeper, is required to leave the field.
Ball Holders	Because the clock is running when the ball goes out of bounds, it is essential that ball holders be available to get the ball back in play quickly. At least two ball holders are to be provided by the home team each game. The ball holders are under the direct supervision of the officials.