

Soccer Rules Changes - 2020-21

By NFHS on April 17, 2020

soccer

2-2-4 SECTION 2 BALL SPECIFICATIONS:

ART. 4...If the ball becomes deflated during play, it is declared dead ~~where it was last played~~ and the game is resumed by a drop ball ~~between any two opposing players at the spot where it was last played~~. If the ball becomes deflated within the goal area, then the ball is dropped ~~between two opposing players~~ subject to the provisions of Rule 9-2-2 and 9-2-3. Ball deflated during a penalty kick results in retaken kick.

Rationale: The provisions for a drop ball have changed, refer to 9-2.

4-1-1a SECTION 1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

ART. 1a...The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white). ~~Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.~~

Rationale: Manufacturing practices have changed.

4-2-7e, f SECTION 2 OTHER EQUIPMENT:

ART. 7...A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral), if worn, shall:
~~e. not to be completely white; and~~
~~f. not to be completely clear.~~

Rationale: SMAC no longer recommends the mouth protector meet these two criteria; dropping these two requirements brings soccer in line with the other sports that allow mouth guards.

9-1-1b SECTION 1 BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

ART. 1...The ball is out of play when:

- a. it has completely crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air;
- b. the ball touches an official and remains on the field; and
 1. a team starts a promising attack;
 2. goes directly into the goal;
 3. possession changes

Rationale: This is to address situations where the ball touches a referee and a team gains an advantage.

SECTION 2 DROP BALL:

ART. 1...The game is restarted with a drop ball:

- a. when the ball is caused to go out-of-bounds by two opponents simultaneously;
- b. when the ball becomes deflated; (2-2-4)
- c. following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation; (except as noted in 14-1-7) and the goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball.
- d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents; or
- e. when the ball touches an official as per 9-1-1b.

Rationale: This proposal prevents an opponent from gaining an advantage.

9-2-3 SECTION 2 DROP BALL

ART. 3...The ball is dropped by an official from waist level to the ground. The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player(s), an outside agent or match official. If when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch, by either team, was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper with all opposing players outside the penalty area. In all cases, all other players must remain at least 4 yards from the ball until it is in play. Any number of players may contest a dropped ball (including the goalkeeper); a referee cannot decide who may contest a drop ball or its outcome.

Other Rules Affected:

9-2-2 SECTION 2 DROP BALL ART. 2...The ball should be dropped at the location where it became dead unless this is within the goal area, in which case, it shall be dropped on that part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal line nearest the location where the ball was when play was stopped. If the ball was caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously, the ball is dropped five yards inside the boundary line to one player of the team in possession of the ball prior to the simultaneous touch, unless this is the goal area. (~~See 9-3~~) (See 9-2-3)

Rationale: Simplifies the drop ball procedure.

9-3 DELETE SECTION 3 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

~~In the case of a temporary injury or unusual situation the game shall be restarted with a drop ball. As in 9-2-3. The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last touched the ball at~~

~~the position where it was last touched by a player, an outside agent or match official. If when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch, by either team, was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper. In either case, all other players must remain 4 yds from the ball until it is in play. at the point where the ball was when play was suspended (except as noted in 14-1-7) provided the ball was not in the goal area and not in the possession of the goalkeeper (1The ball is dropped f2-8-2). Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an injury or unusual situation, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead subject to the provisions of Rule 9-2-2.~~

Rationale: Information was redundant.

13-2-3b DELETE SECTION 2 WHEN AWARDED

~~ART. 3b...For temporary suspension of play for injury or unusual situation and the goalkeeper has possession to the ball as per Rule 9-3 (9-3).~~

Rationale: Provisions for drop ball changed.

13-3-1 SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

ART. 1...Players opposing the kicker shall be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked, unless they are standing on their own goal line between the goal posts. If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, players opposing the kicker shall be outside the penalty area at least 10 yards from the ball and shall must remain there until the ball is in play clears the penalty area. Where 3 or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play.

Rationale: This will allow the ball to be put back into play quicker and will lead to a decrease in confrontational moments during free kicks.

13-3-2 SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

ART. 2...The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground at the spot specified by the official. To be in play, the ball shall be moved in any direction. ~~If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, the ball is not in play until it is beyond the penalty area and into the field of play.~~ Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a rekick.

Rationale: Allows the ball to be put back into play quicker.

13-3-4 NEW SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

NEW ART. 4...For indirect kicks, the referee shall signal an indirect kick (using Official NFHS Soccer

Signals Rule 5-3-1 b) by raising an arm above the head; this signal shall be maintained until the kick is taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play. If the referee fails to signal the kick is indirect and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal, the kick shall be retaken.

Rationale: This clarifies the need to make the signal and prevents punishing the team taking the kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal.

14-1-3 SECTION 1 PENALTY KICK

ART. 3...The opposing goalkeeper shall stand with at least one foot on or in-line with the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts, and shall not be touching the goal posts, crossbar, or nets, until the ball is kicked. Lateral or forward movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line with both feet ~~by stepping or lunging forward~~ until the ball is in play.

Rationale: This clarifies the goalkeeper's position during the taking of a penalty kick.

16-1-2 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK

ART. 2...Players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play ~~has cleared the penalty area.~~

Rationale: Clarifies when the ball is in play.

16-1-3 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK

ART. 3...Once spotted, the ball shall be kicked from the ground from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. ~~A goal kick shall clear the penalty area and enter the field of play. If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty area, the goal kick shall be repeated.~~

Rationale: Clarifies when the ball is in play.

16-1-4 SECTION 1 GOAL KICK

ART. 4...After the goal kick is properly taken ~~leaves the penalty area~~, the ball may be played by any player except the one who executes the goal kick. The kicker may not play the ball until it has been touched by another player.

Rationale: Clarifies how the kick is taken and when it is in play.

Soccer Points of Emphasis - 2020-21

By NFHS on May 06, 2020

soccer

Correct Field Markings and Appropriate Uniform. It is important that games are played on fields marked in a consistent manner, and players wear uniforms according to NFHS rules. If a field is improperly marked and/or if a team wears an illegal uniform the referee shall contact the state association, who will work with school administrators to make appropriate changes. In addition, during pregame communication with school administration, game officials are also encouraged to communicate these corrective actions directly to administrators.

Understanding the Difference Between Fair, Hard Play and a Foul. Soccer is a contact sport and understanding the differences between fair and hard play and a foul that is either reckless or serious is important to ensuring fair play and the safety of the players. When a player acts with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent, he/she should be cautioned for reckless play. When a player uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent, he/she could be disqualified for serious foul play. It is critical coaches teach players about their own safety and the safety of their opponents, and officials recognize the differences between reckless and serious and the corresponding penalties. Safety, fair play and sportsmanship should be emphasized in the pregame meeting. Communication between officials, coaches and captains should continue throughout a match, especially as the intensity increases. And when reckless or serious foul play occurs, officials should deal with the situation immediately – this kind of play should not be tolerated.

Education-Based Soccer. High school athletics is education-based, and some mechanics of our game are intentionally different from other levels of soccer. The pregame meeting, for example, is a time for officials to communicate expectations to both coaches and captains. This REQUIRED meeting for both head coaches and captains should cover pertinent rules, sportsmanship, the coin toss, and properly and legally equipped players. This meeting is a purposeful start to an education-based interscholastic match.

Soccer Comments on the Rules - 2020-21

By NFHS on May 06, 2020

soccer

2-2-4 – The change in resuming play after a ball becomes deflated during play was dictated by changes in the drop ball procedure in rule

9-2. 4-1-1a – Manufacturing of uniforms designed to be worn outside the shorts have become more common, making it difficult for officials to enforce the rule of tucking the shirt in, necessitating a revision.

4-2-7e, f – The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) no longer recommends the mouth protector meet the criteria of not being completely white or completely clear.

9-1-1b – This change prevents situations where one team gains an advantage when the ball touches a referee and remains in play.

9-2-1c, e – This change reiterates the changes made to 9-1-1, clarifying that the game is restarted with a drop ball following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation, or when the ball touches an official. Note: in all situations where a drop ball restart occurs in the penalty area, the ball is always dropped to the goalkeeper with all opposing players outside the penalty area.

9-2-3 – This change clarifies the procedure followed when restarting play with a drop ball. It ensures that the team in possession when play was stopped, retains possession when play is resumed, with the exception of a drop ball in the penalty area.

9-3 – This rule was removed because of redundancy. Refer to 9-2-1c.

13-2-3b – Consistent with changes made in rule 9-2-1c. This change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick when play is temporarily suspended due to an injury or other unusual situation.

13-3-1 – This change will allow opposing players to enter the penalty area and play the ball once it has been put in play. The ball will no longer need to leave the penalty area before being touched by any player to be considered in play.

13-3-2 – This change affirms that the ball does not have to leave the penalty area to be in play, following a free kick.

13-3-4 – This rule prevents punishing a team taking an indirect free kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal.

14-1-3 – This rule clarifies the goalkeeper's position during the taking of a penalty kick. This change allows the goalkeeper to make any movement desired, if one foot remains on or in-line with the goal line until the ball is kicked.

16-1-2, 16-1-3, 16-1-4 – These changes clarify the procedure for taking a goal kick and designating when the ball is in play.