

# Soccer Rules Changes - 2016-17

**4-2-9 NEW:** A soft-padded headband is permitted.

**Rationale:** This information is not included in the rules. It is mentioned in a situation.

**11-1-4:** 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. 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.

**Rationale:** The addition of this information aligns NFHS with other rules codes.

**14-1-4:** . . . . Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a re-kick will be considered a violation by the attacking team, and the appropriate penalties shall apply.

**Rationale:** As the rule is currently written, even though the attacking team has committed the infringement, it penalizes the defending team if it successfully stops a penalty kick. If the penalty kick is unsuccessful, the defending team should be awarded the ball as the attacking team has incorrectly taken the penalty kick. The current interpretation that the ball has not been put into play so a re-kick must take place is difficult to justify because rarely does the referee blow the whistle in time to prevent the kick from being taken. Thus the ball moves forward and is considered in play under all other interpretations of the rules. Trying to rationalize this rule to the defending team's players and coaches is very difficult considering they have just prevented a goal even though their opponents committed a violation. Finally, changing the restart in this case to an IFK or the other appropriate penalties aligns NFHS rules with other rules codes.

**18-1-1 NEW o: 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.

**Rationale:** Gaining An Advantage by being in that Position is in Rule 11-1-4, but it has never been defined. This new definition aligns NFHS with other rules codes.

**18-1-1 NEW u: 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.

**Rationale:** 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..

**18-1-1 NEW v: INTERFERING WITH PLAY –** Playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate.

**Rationale:** 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.

## **Soccer Editorial Changes**

**1-2-1:** The field of play shall be marked in accordance with the Soccer Field diagram, on the previous page, with non-caustic, distinctively colored material that is not injurious to the participants.

**Rationale:** 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.

**1-2-10:** A 1-yard long hash mark may be made perpendicular to the goal line, but not touching, outside the field of play 11 yards from the corner of the field to assist the officials in enforcement of encroachment during corner kicks.

**Rationale:** This helps clarify the fact that this marking is in no way on the field.

**1-2 Play Rulings:** Add State Association notification to 1.2.4 and 1.2.6.

**Rationale:** 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.

**1-4-2:** 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. Nets may be multicolored; however, no markings other than a single manufacturer's identification/logo may appear on the net.

**Rationale:** 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.

**1-5:** There shall be designated specific marked areas for each team's bench, separated by an official area for entering substitutes, scorers and timers. These areas shall be marked at least 10 feet from the touchline. The state association should be notified if team areas are not marked.

**Rationale:** In many, if not most cases, the team areas are not marked. This rule change will give specific directions on marking the team areas, as well as what to do in the event it is not marked.

**1-6:** No one shall be permitted directly behind either goal unless seated in bleachers.

**Rationale:** Removing the word “seated” helps to avoid confusion on where fans should be if directly behind the goal.

**3-3-3 Situation J:** 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 have not been met.

**Rationale:** The word “not” was inadvertently removed from the ruling.

**4-1-1h2:** Only those names, patches, emblems, logos or insignias referencing the school are permitted on the team jersey and/or shorts, as well as on visible undergarments and goalkeeper pants, except as in 4-1-1(f). The player’s name may also appear on the team uniform.

**Rationale:** 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 inappropriate for coaches or officials to be checking those garments for possible violations of the rule as it is currently written.

**4-1-1i:** (second sentence) 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 or they have been altered in any way creating sharp edges thus rendering them unsafe.

**Rationale:** 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.

**Situation 4-1-1 H Situation:** Ruling...If unable to correct, the game shall be played and the referee must notify the proper authority the state association following the game.

**Rationale:** Changed to the “state association” as used in other parts of the book.

**4-1-2:** It is recommended that team captains wear an upper arm band of a contrasting color. The arm band, if worn, shall be worn on the upper arm.

**Rationale:** The added gives specific direction as to the expectation of where the armband should be worn.

**4-2-9 New:** During pregame warm-up, the referee observes A5 is wearing a softpadded headwear headband. **COMMENT:** The use of a soft-padded soccer headwear headband is permitted but not required.

**Rationale:** the term headgear suggests headband and helmet.

**12-8-1 Situation C:** During the game, while the ball is in play, (c) Player A1 wears an electric heart monitor on the chest under the jersey,

**Rationale:** This proposal is for item c only. The additional wording is needed because there are heart monitors that are worn on the wrist that would be illegal.

**12-8-2:** Add Penalty to this Article.

**Rationale:** 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. Would it not be worth consider adding this? I know “disqualified” should be clear enough, but adding this and making it clear that the team shall not be allowed to replace the player would add clarity here.