



# 2023-24 HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

**EMSOA**



**Since 1959**

**Eastern Mass.  
Soccer Officials  
Association**



Rules Changes  
Editorial Changes  
Points of Emphasis





# 2022-2023 NFHS SOCCER QUICK REVIEW





# OTHER EQUIPMENT

## 4-2-2

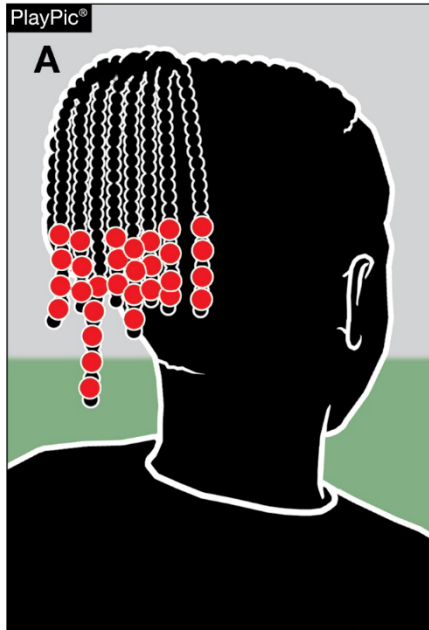
Hair control devices and other adornments worn in the hair must meet the following criteria:

- Be securely fastened to the head.
- Do not present an increased risk to the player, teammates or opponent.
- This change promotes the inclusion of participants based on their cultural and religious beliefs.



# OTHER EQUIPMENT

## 4-2-2



Illegal



Legal



Illegal



Legal

In PlayPics A and C, the beads worn by each player are not securely fastened to the head. In PlayPic B and D, the beads worn are securely fastened to the head.

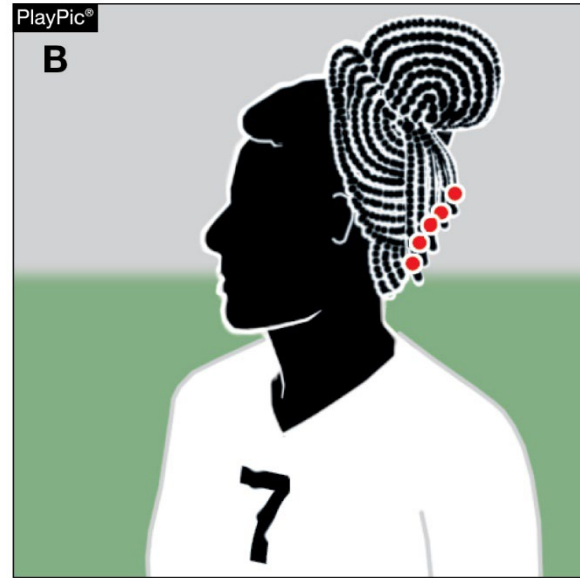


# OTHER EQUIPMENT

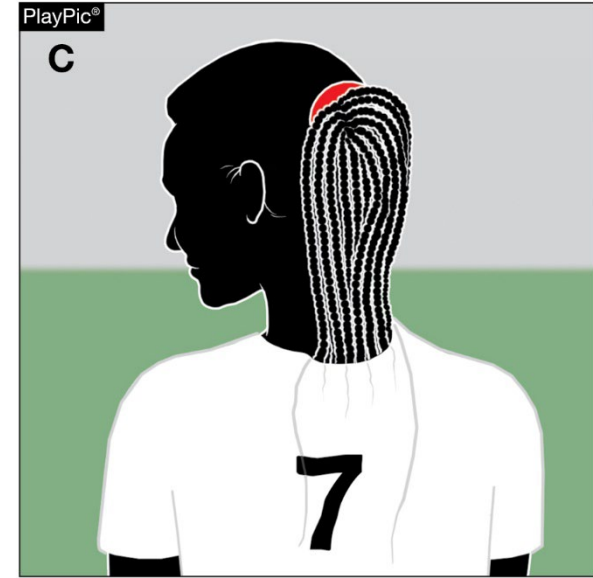
## 4-2-2



Illegal



Legal



Legal

- In PlayPics A, the player cannot participate with the hair adornments worn in the current position since the adornments are not securely fastened to the head. Play Pics B and C are options to make legal.



## **RULE 4-3 IMPROPERLY EQUIPPED**

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### Improperly Equipped Players (18-1-1u)

- Cautions will not be issued for improperly equipped player(s).
  - If not immediately correctable, improperly equipped player(s) shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. The player(s) may be replaced. The removed player(s), if not replaced, may re-enter at the next dead ball only after reporting to an official, who shall be satisfied the player's equipment and uniform are in order. Play shall not be stopped for an infringement of this rule except that the referee may stop play immediately where there is a dangerous situation.
-



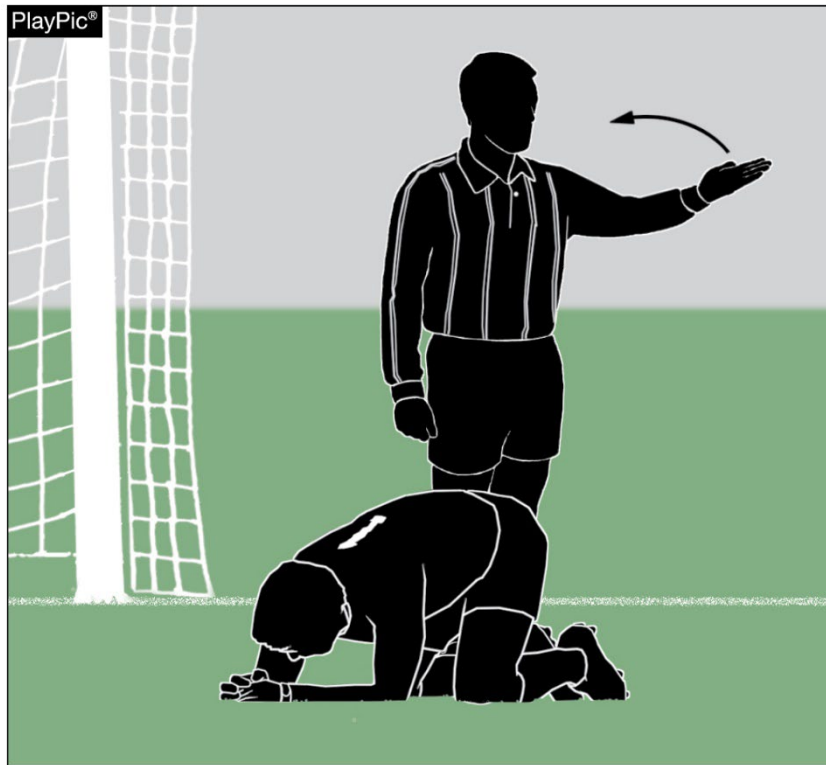
# 2023-24 NFHS SOCCER RULES CHANGES





# SUBSTITUTIONS

## 3-3-2b (2, 3) (NEW)

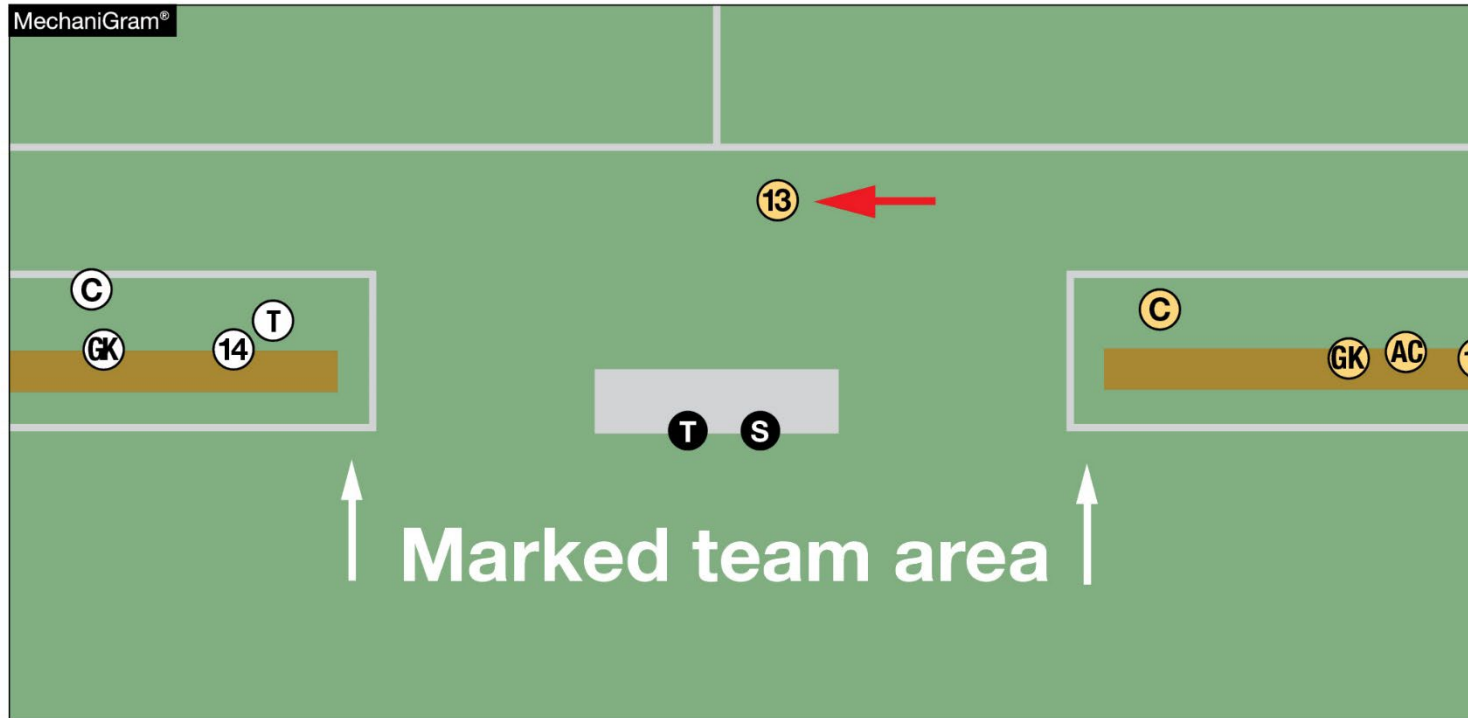


1. The referee may stop the clock to check on a player who appears to be injured.
2. If the referee beckons sideline personnel to attend to an injured player, the injured player must leave the field.
3. If the clock was stopped, but the referee did not beckon anyone onto the field, the player may remain in the game.



# SUBSTITUTIONS

## 3-3-7

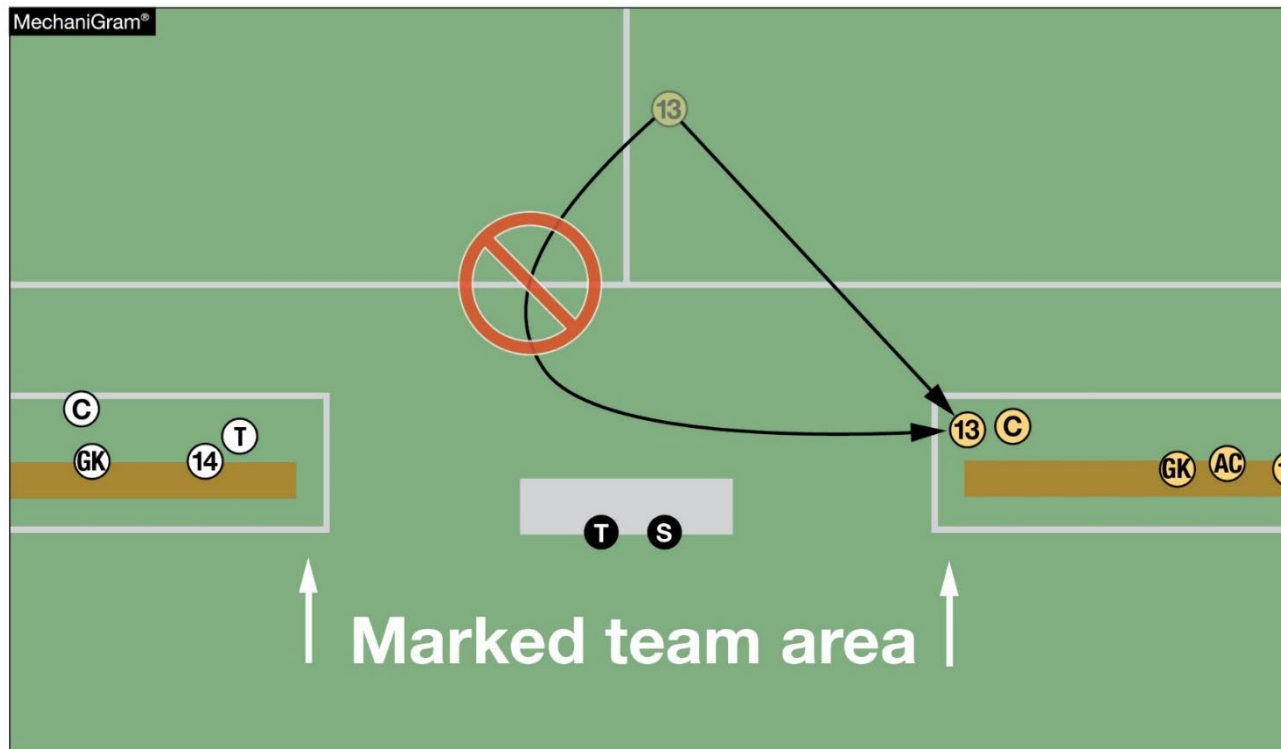


#13 was asked to leave the field to correct improper equipment and may re-enter at the next dead ball from the official's area after being beckoned by the referee.

- A team that elects or is required to play shorthanded for reasons other than misconduct may have the player(s) re-enter the game during a dead ball.
- The re-entry shall occur from the official area after being beckoned in as per 3-4-1a.

# PROCEDURES FOR SUBSTITUTIONS

## 3-4-1e (NEW)

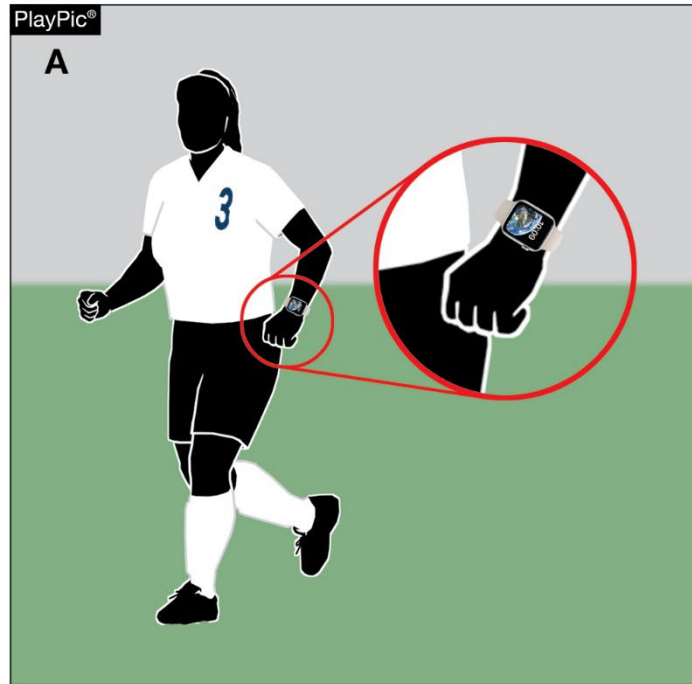


- The player being replaced shall exit the field on the bench side unless the player is injured and unable to exit to that side.
- When exiting the field, players shall exit into their team's bench area (and not the opponent's).

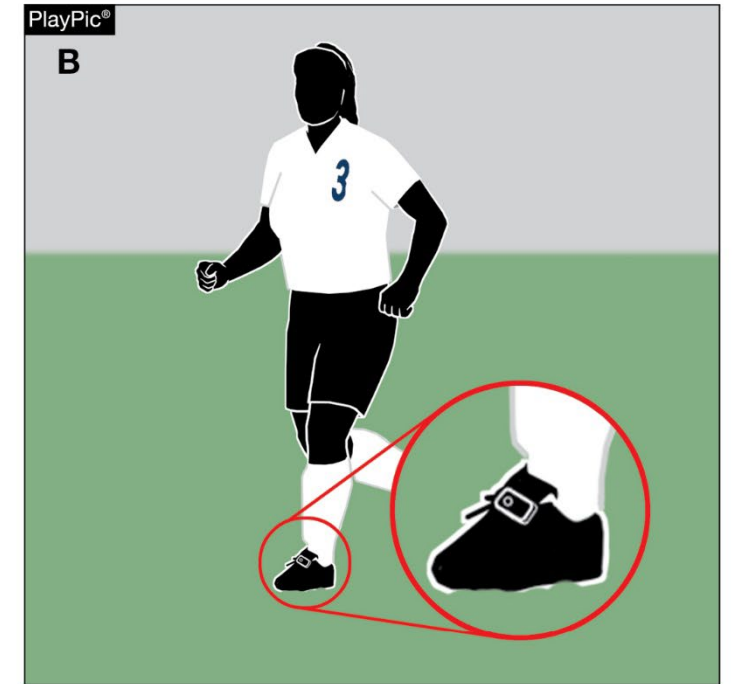
#13 must exit toward their team area's side of the field if able to do so

# OTHER EQUIPMENT 4-2-11 (NEW)

- Wearable technology devices are permitted.
- Must be secured.
- Must not create a safety hazard to any player.
- Devices may be worn on the shoes or on the body under the uniform.
- Devices may not be worn under the arm below the level of the shoulder.



ILLEGAL – cannot be worn on wrist (below shoulder)



LEGAL – worn on the shoe

# UNIFORM RULE 4



The uniform rule has been reorganized to offer clarity.

## 4-1: Required Uniform

- Art. 1 Requirements
- Art. 2 Jersey
- Art. 3 Shorts
- Art. 4 Socks
- Art. 5 Shinguards
- Art. 6 Shoes

## 4-2: Other Equipment

## 4-3: Illegal Equipment

## 4-4: Coaches' Responsibilities



# OFFSIDE 11-1-5 (NEW)

To deliberately play the ball, the player must have time and space, and sufficient sight of the ball to control the ball with the possibility of:

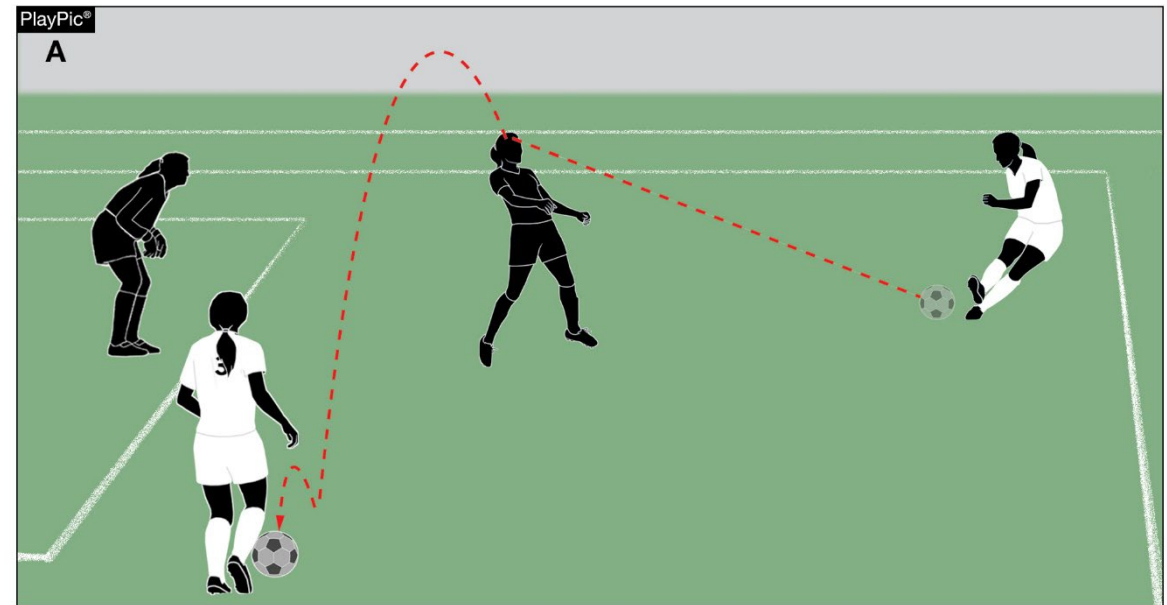
1. Passing the ball to their teammate; or
2. Gaining possession of the ball; or
3. Clearing the ball

A save is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).

# OFFSIDE 11-1-5 (NEW)

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.

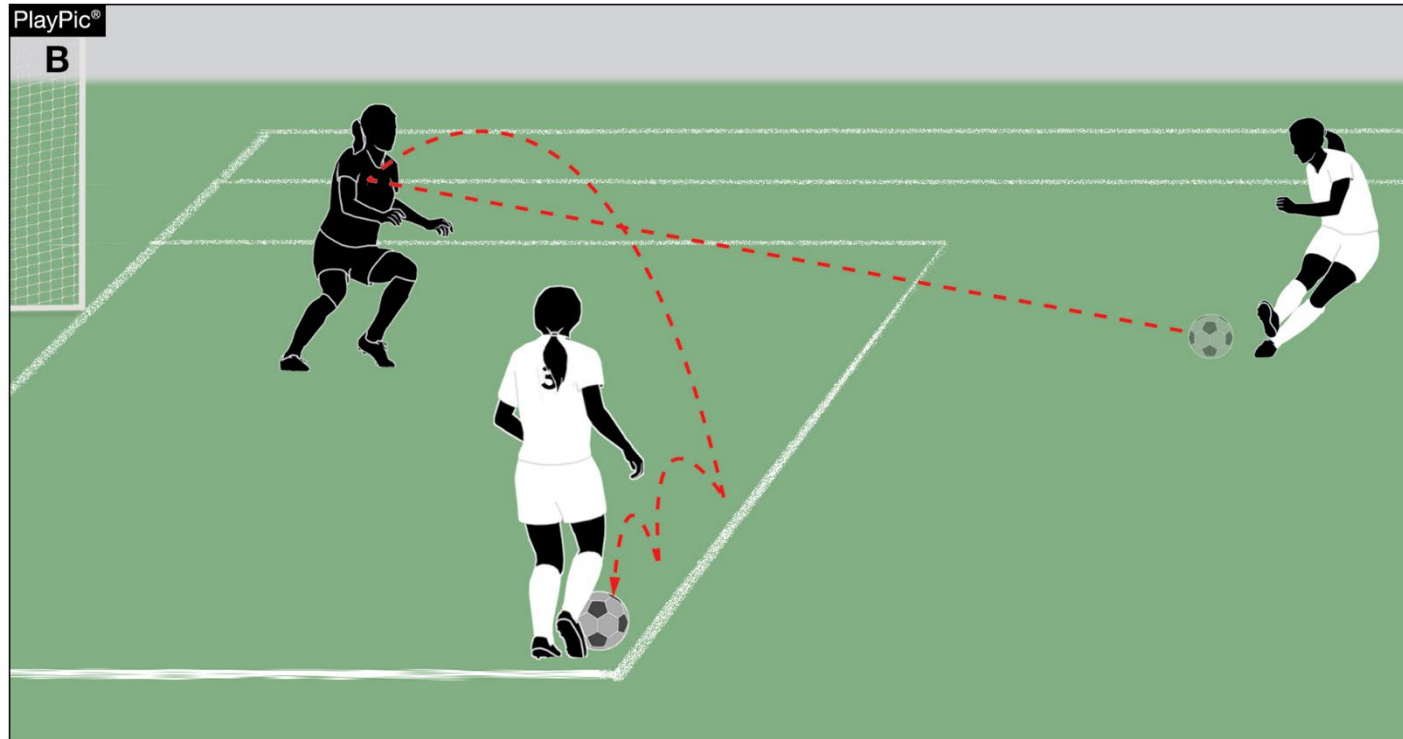
In PlayPic A, the second attacker is to be ruled offside because the ball merely glanced off the defender's head (not a deliberate play).



**OFFSIDE – deflection off a defender who did not deliberately play the ball**



# OFFSIDE 11-1-5 (NEW)



In PlayPic B, the goalkeeper makes a deliberate save. White #3 has committed an offside offense.



## IFAB CIRCULAR 26

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Law 11 – Offside Clarification of the guidelines to distinguish between ‘deliberate play’ and ‘deflection

<https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/circular-26-new?l=en>





# FOULS

## 12-1-1 thru 3 (NEW), 18-1-1

This new section defines the seven direct free-kick fouls that must at least rise to the level of careless in order to be called a foul.

Those offenses are (If committed against an opponent):

- Charges
- Jumps at
- Kicks or attempts to kick
- Pushes
- Strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- Tackles or challenges
- Trips or attempts to trip



# HANDLING 12-3-2, 3 (NEW)



Handling continues to be defined by the armpit. The upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.

Attacker 8 is not guilty of handling.



# HANDLING 12-3-2, 3 (NEW)

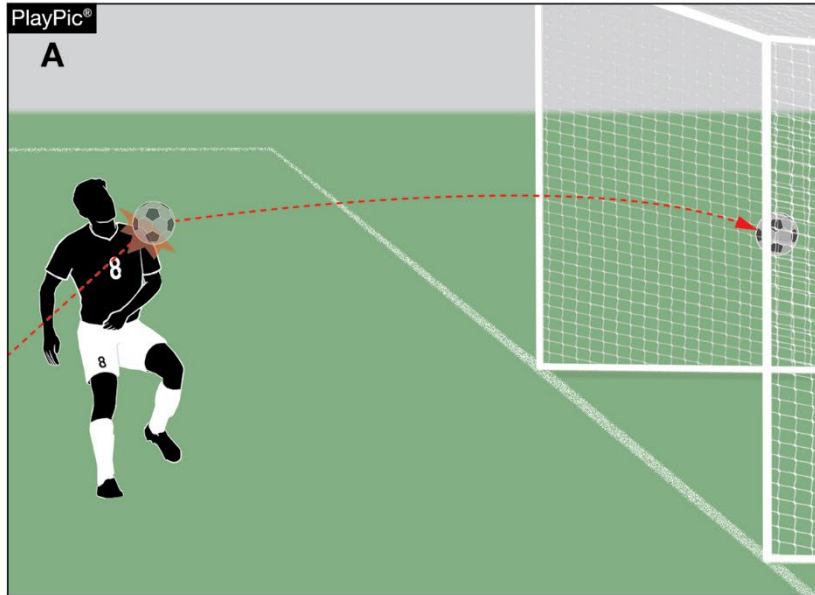


These new articles stipulate a goal cannot be scored if a player (including the goalkeeper) is guilty of handling, even if accidental.

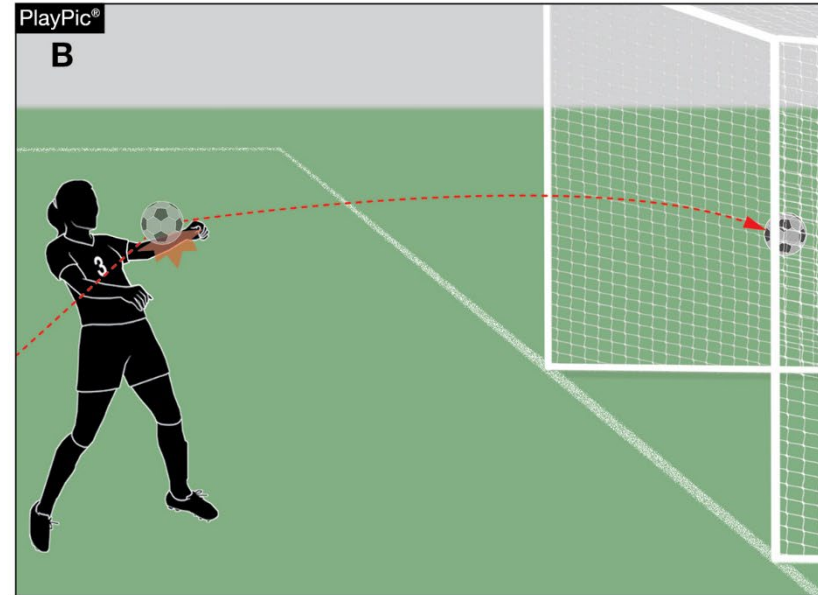
The handling is penalized. This is clearly handling even if accidental.



# HANDLING 12-3-2, 3 (NEW)



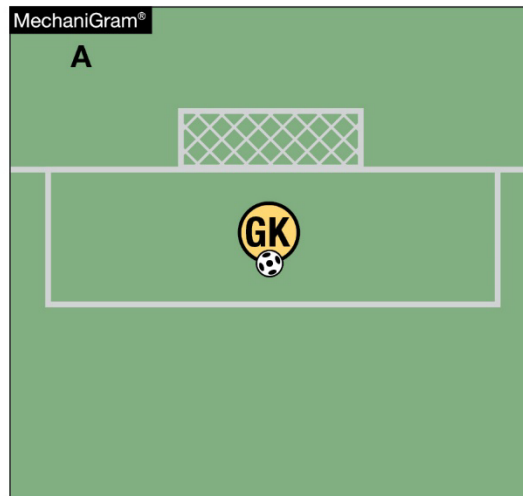
- In PlayPic A, attacker #8 is not guilty of handling, the goal is scored.



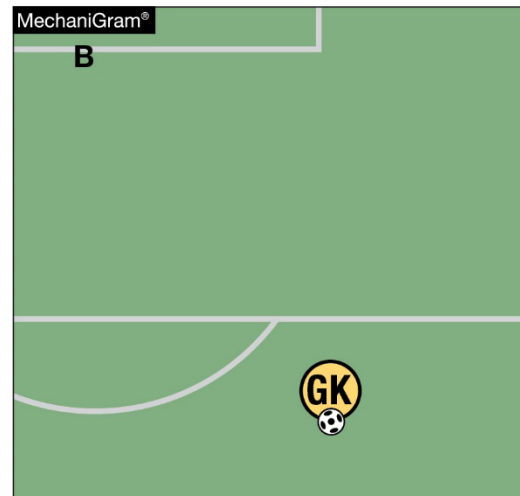
- In PlayPic B, attacker #3 cannot legally score a goal, solely focusing on the handling situation presented, even if handling is ruled accidental, a direct free kick is awarded to the defending team.

# RESTRICTIONS ON THE GOALKEEPER

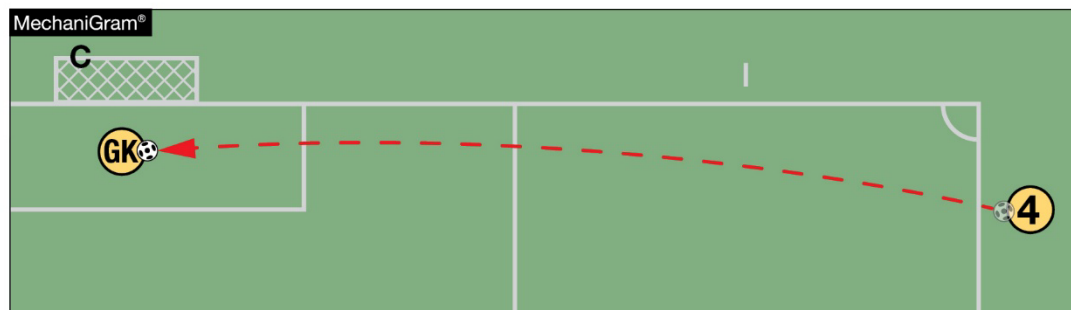
## 12-8-5



Double Touch



Handling Outside the Penalty Area



Throw-in by Teammate

- The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. (PlayPic B)
- If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside the penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction. (PlayPics A and C)



# RESTRICTIONS ON THE GOALKEEPER

## 12-8-5

If the violation is playing the ball a second time after a restart before it touches another player, the goalkeeper must be cautioned if the offense stops a promising attack or disqualified if the offense denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO).



# MISCONDUCT

## 12-9-4

Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) defined.

To determine if an offense meets the DOGSO criteria, the following must be considered:

1. Distance to Goal
2. Distance to Ball (reasonable playing distance).
3. Direction of Play (moving toward goal).
4. Defenders (location and number of defenders).

## DOGSO INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA

DOGSO offenses committed *OUTSIDE* the penalty area where a goal is not scored are sanctioned with a disqualification (12-9-2d(3)).

If a defender commits a DOGSO foul *INSIDE* their penalty area resulting in a penalty kick:

- If the offender was attempting to play the ball, they are cautioned (12-9-1f(15)).
- For all other offenses (e.g., holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) the offender is disqualified (19-9-2d(4)).

DOGSO offenses committed by deliberately handling the ball (other than the goalkeeper) and a goal is not scored are sanctioned with a disqualification, regardless of where the handling occurred (12-9-2d(2)).





# MISCONDUCT EXAMPLES

## 12-9-4

Scenario ONE:

If a player carelessly slide tackles their opponent, which is a play on the ball, denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, they will be disqualified for DOGSO if this foul is located outside the penalty area: the offender is disqualified per 12-9-2d(3), their team must play short-sided, and play restarts with a direct free kick.

If committed inside the penalty area, they are cautioned for unsporting conduct and a PK is awarded per 12-9-1f(15).



# MISCONDUCT EXAMPLES

## 12-9-4

Scenario TWO:

If a player tackles their opponent using excessive force inside the penalty area, the offender is disqualified for serious foul play. Even though their foul, may also be a DOGSO inside the penalty area from a play on the ball, the nature of the foul rises to the level of disqualification per 12-9-2d(1).

The offender is disqualified for serious foul play, a penalty kick is awarded, and the offender's team must play short-sided.



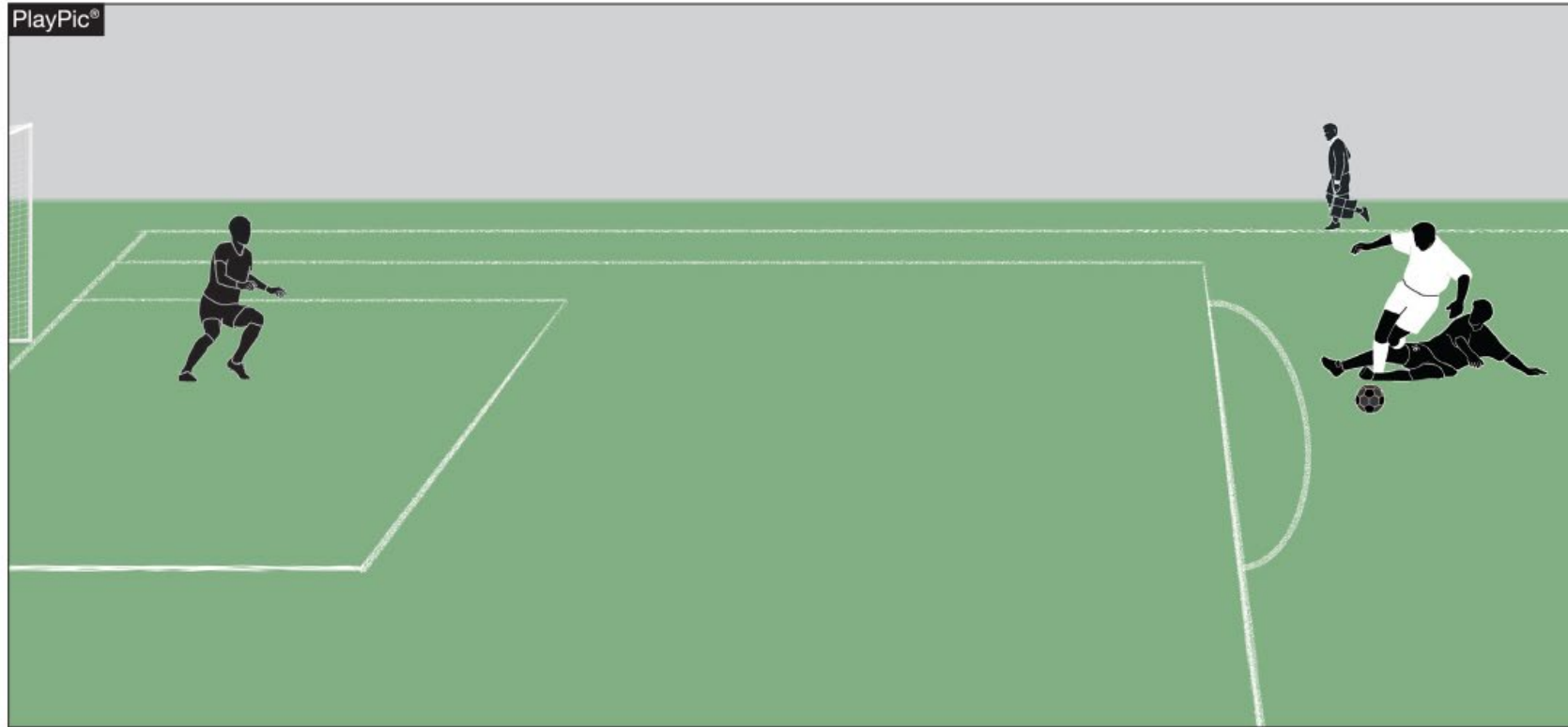
# MISCONDUCT EXAMPLES

## 12-9-4

Scenario THREE:

A defender, other than the goalkeeper, who deliberately handles the ball and stops a goal from being scored will always be disqualified for DOGSO regardless of where the handling offense occurs per 12-9-2d(2), provided the other considerations of DOGSO apply.

# DOGSO



Player B1, with no attempt to play the ball, trips the attacking player A1 outside the penalty box denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. The referee awards the opponents a direct free kick and issues a red card to B1.

## **MISCONDUCT**

Cautioned - Yellow card

Disqualified - Red card

Players (Shall leave the field and **MUST** be replaced on a Caution per MIAA Rule)





## RULE 14 PENALTY KICK

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NFHS Soccer Rules Page 75 PK Situations

Ball not kicked forward is and IFK for the defending team

If the injured player is being replaced during a PK, the substitute may not take the PK. The same is a TO is called must be a field player.



# NEW/REVISED DEFINITIONS

## 18-1-1

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A total of five definitions were added or revised to Rule 18-1-1.

The terms **Careless**, **Excessive Force**, **Serious Foul Play** and **Tactical Fouls** were added to the Rules Book.

The term **Violent Conduct** was revised.



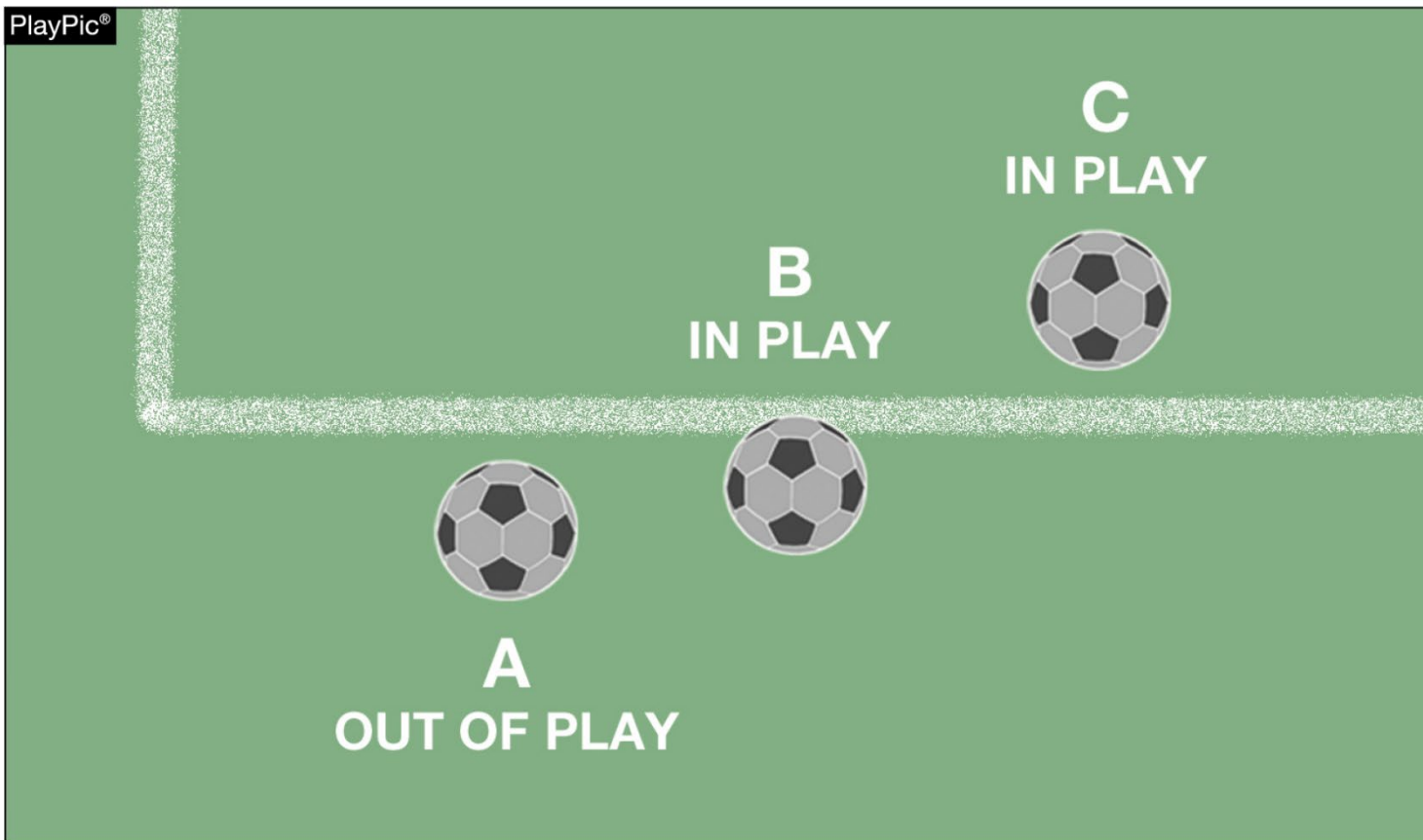
# 2023-24 NFHS SOCCER EDITORIAL CHANGE







# IN PLAY AND OUT OF PLAY 9-1-1 (A & B)



The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed a goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air.

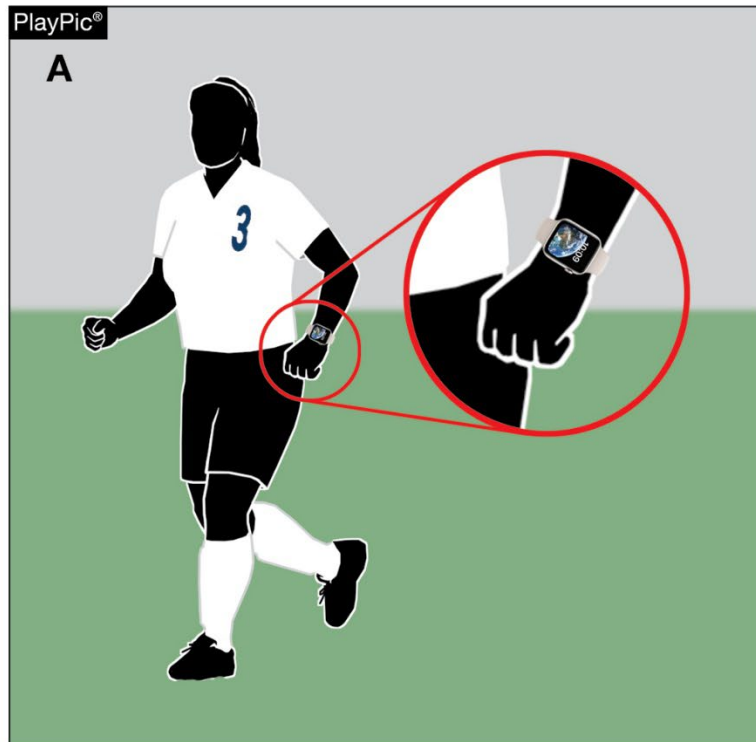
This diagram was moved in the Rules Book to better align with the corresponding text.



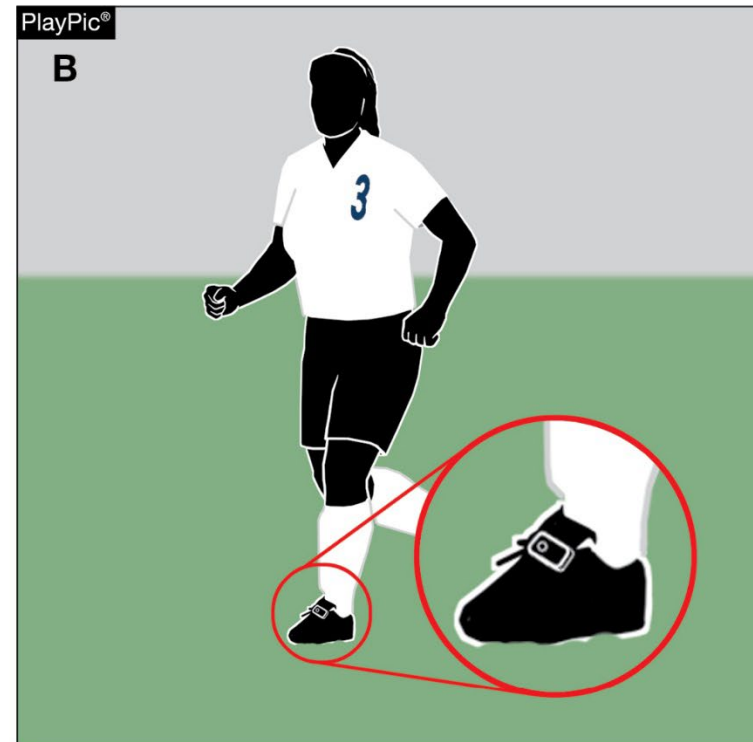
# 2023-24 NFHS SOCCER POINTS OF EMPHASIS



# WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY



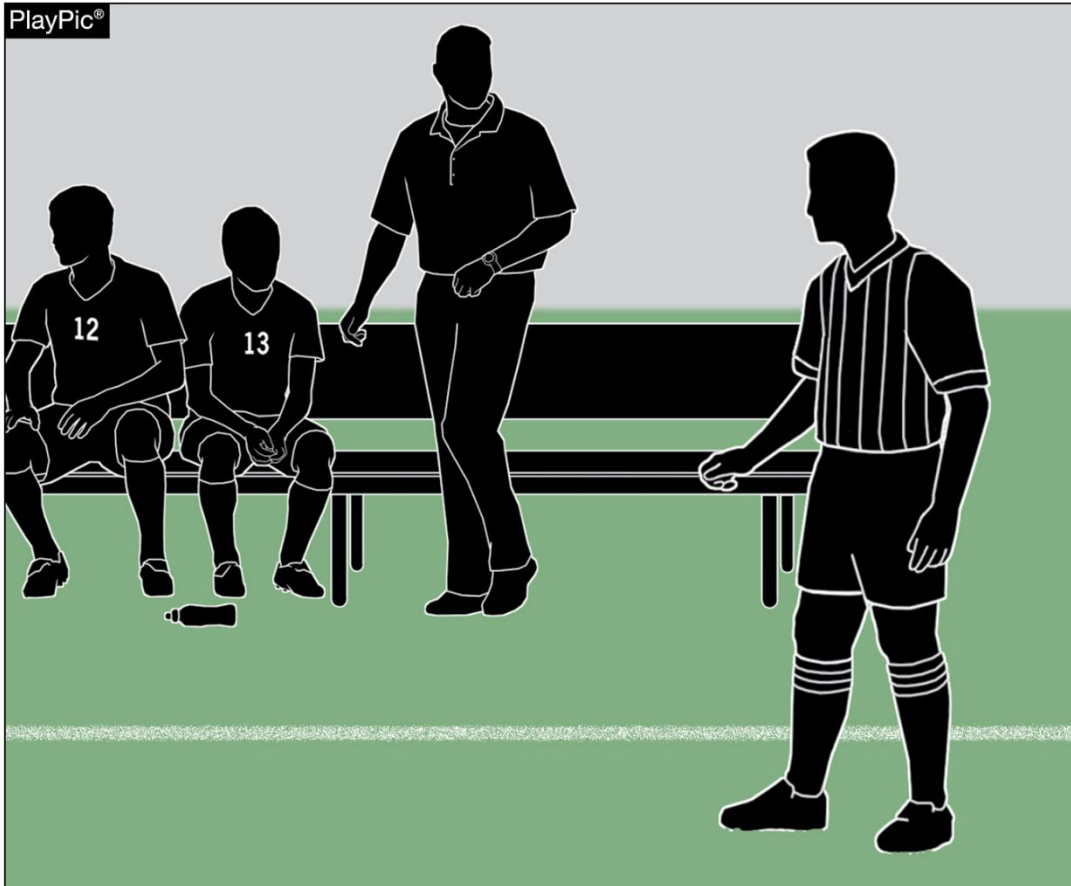
ILLEGAL – cannot be worn on wrist  
(below shoulder)



LEGAL – worn on the shoe

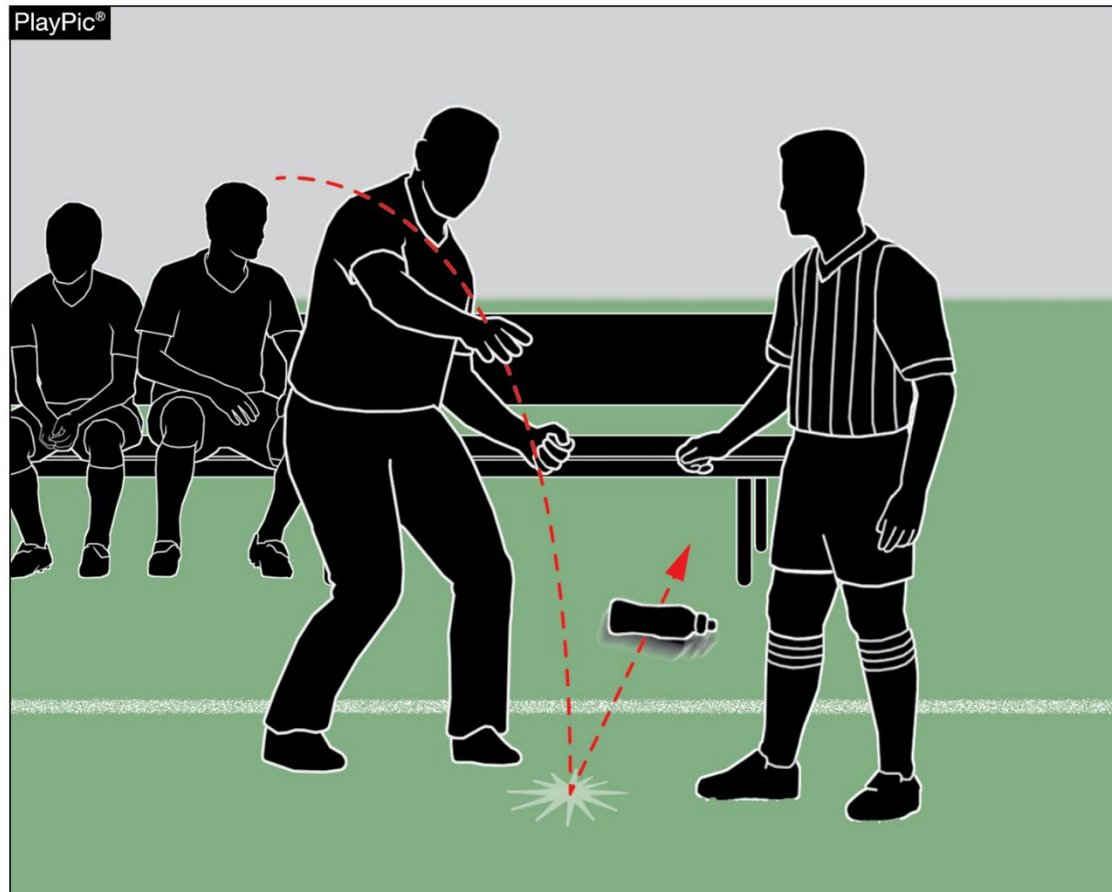
- Wearable technology is permitted in certain instances.
- Coaches and officials must review the Rule Change to Rule 4-2-12 (earlier in this presentation).

## COACHING AND TEAM AREA DECORUM



- Coaches set the tone with display of sportsmanship.
- Officials focus on action of players, coaches and other bench personnel.
- An open line of communication between officials and coaches makes for a better game.

## COACHING AND TEAM AREA DECORUM



- Examples of inappropriate decorum:
  - Kicking or throwing objects in reaction to decision.
  - Entering the field to dissent or confront an official.
  - Acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner.
  - Arguing calls constantly.
- Referees must manage this type of behavior.



# DENYING AN OBVIOUS GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)

**Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) is an egregious attempt to prevent opponents from scoring.**

For a player to be sent off for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity the following four criteria must be present:

1. Distance between the offense and the goal (the offense must be near the goal).
2. General direction of play (the attacking players are generally headed toward the goal).
3. Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball (the player must have or been able to control the ball in order to score).
4. Location and number of defenders (If another defender, including the goalkeeper is in a closed enough position to make a lawful tackle or attempt a save then this criteria is not met).

**If any element is missing, the player cannot be sent off for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.**

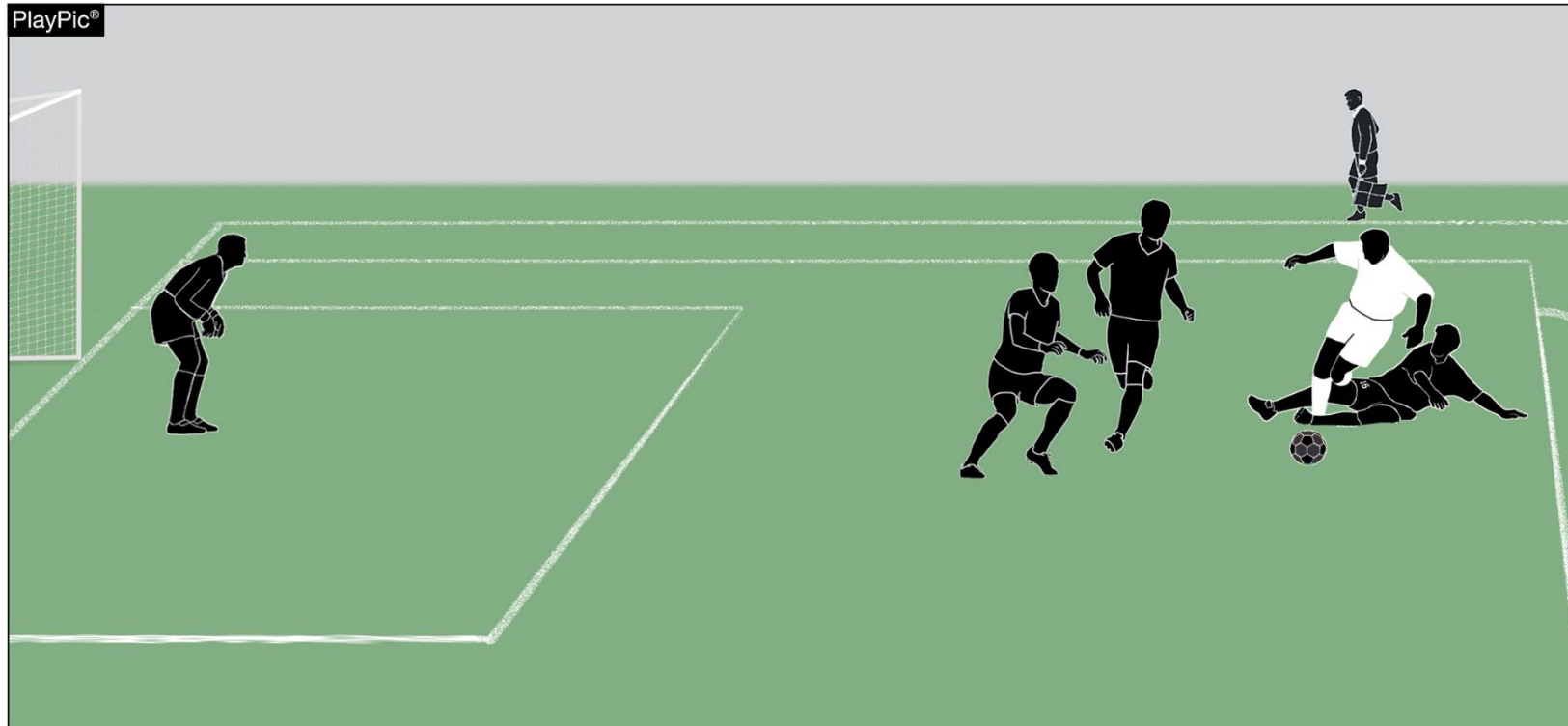


# DENYING AN OBVIOUS GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)

Questions to ask when judging on the four considerations:

- Where does the offense occur on the field?
- Did the foul occur inside or outside the penalty area?
- What is the distance between the offense and the goal?
- What is the direction of play?
- Does the player have control of the ball?
- Can the player gain control of the ball?
- How many defenders are involved in the situation?
- Where are the defenders located?
- Does the offense lead to a direct free kick or an indirect free kick?
- If no offense were to occur, would the player have an obvious opportunity to score a goal?
- Does the player deliberately handle the ball to deny the opposing team a goal?
- Was the offender attempting to play the ball?

# DENYING AN OBVIOUS GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)



- In this PlayPic, the referee must consider all questions from the previous slide.
- Based on the information available - NOT DOGSO.

Correct, given that three players remain to defend.



## DENYING AN OBVIOUS GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)



Remember – Offenses which deny a goal-scoring opportunity are not limited to a foul that would result in a direct free kick or penalty kick.

Offenses may include fouls that would result in an indirect free kick (i.e. Goalkeeper Mis-Kick).

# SUBSTITUTION



- When do substitutions typically occur?
  - Throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, after goal, half time, injury.
- Replaced player – exits field on bench side unless unable to do so.
- Substitutes must be beckoned by the referee.

# OTHER MIAA RULES



# MIAA HANDBOOK RULES 23 25

- 78.1.3 Shin guards must be worn by all players during contests and practices.
- 78.1.4 Soccer players are not allowed to wear shoes with metal cleats, or any metal on the cleat.
- 78.1.5 Mouth guards are highly recommended for all soccer players while on the field.
- 78.1.6 The home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks, and the visiting team shall wear white or light jerseys and socks.
- 78.2.1 All leagues/conferences must conduct a pre-season meeting for all head soccer coaches to review sportsmanship goals and objectives.

# MIAA HANDBOOK RULES CON'T

- 78.2.4 Any player who receives a yellow card shall be replaced and shall not re-enter the contest until the next opportunity for substitution occurs.
- 78.2.5 A player committing a second yellow card infraction in the same contest receives a red card. There are no exceptions. *It should be reported as only a red card (not two yellows or a yellow and a red).*
- 78.2.16 Any team whose players/coaches receive collectively five (5) yellow and/or red cards in a contest(including pre & post-game) will result in immediate termination of the contest, and result in forfeiture by the offending team.

# MIAA HANDBOOK RULES CON'T

78.2.18 Game officials will not receive compensation unless they remain present at the conclusion of the soccer contest until the student-athlete handshake is completed.

78.2.20 For all varsity soccer contests, the home team must assign an adult contest manager, other than a member of the soccer coaching staff, to be responsible for all aspects of administration of the contest

78.2.22 The MIAA Taunting Policy must be reviewed by game officials with the captains and coaches in a meeting before each soccer contest.

78.2.23 Each team will be allowed a one-minute time out per half and each extended time. The time-out may be called by the coach or any player on the field during an offensive restart. For more information on the time out rule, [click here](#).

# TIME-OUT CLARIFICATION MIAA HANDBOOK

- Time outs are allowed - one per team per half, lasting one minute or less from the time the teams get to the side line, they are not cumulative.
- Coaches may enter and players must stay on the field. Privilege for unlimited substitution exists after a time out.
- Time out may be called only during a dead ball by the team "owning" the restart in the event of; a penalty kick, a corner kick, a goal kick, a throw in or free kick (direct or indirect).
- Time out may be called by either team at a dead ball after a card (red or yellow), a goal, an injury (when time out was called by the official) and a dropped ball.
- Time outs may be called one per period in overtime periods - non cumulative.

# TIME-OUT CLARIFICATION MIAA HANDBOOK

- There are no time outs during shoot-outs
- Time out called during the dead ball time to attend to an injured player: That injured player may reenter the game after the time out.
- Time out called during the dead ball time to administer a Caution to a player. That player may NOT reenter the game after the time out, but must wait until the next legal sub opportunity after the game has been restarted.
- If the restart is a Penalty Kick, then the kicker MUST be someone who was on the field when the foul was called. Therefore, the referees should ask the team taking the PK to choose a kicker PRIOR to allowing the teams to have the time out (NOTE: clock is still stopped during all of this).





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### STUDENT CONTEST DISQUALIFICATION FORM

(MIAA reference Rule 49)

**NOTE TO GAME OFFICIALS:** All disqualifications must be explained in writing immediately after the contest. Present this completed form to the contest site manager.

**PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED:** (1) The site manager is responsible for having these forms available for officials at the game site. (2) The suspending official shall notify the scorer, the person in charge, and the coach of each team at the time the student is disqualified from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct. Failure of the official to do so **does not** exempt a student from the penalty required by the rule. At the conclusion of the contest, the official must complete the form and give it to the site manager. (3) The site manager is responsible for sending copies to the Principal and Athletic Director of each school involved and to the MIAA Executive Director.

Varsity  Sub-Varsity  Boys  Girls  MIAA Tournament

SPORT \_\_\_\_\_ SITE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF INCIDENT \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TEAM \_\_\_\_\_ VS. \_\_\_\_\_ VISITING TEAM \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL OF STUDENT SUSPENDED \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SUSPENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
Uniform # FIRST NAME LAST NAME Grade

#### DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSING DISQUALIFICATION OF THE PLAYER:

One form is to be completed for each athlete disqualified. Please describe circumstances causing disqualification from the athlete in the space provided or on reverse side of this form. **Violation called:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(CONTINUE ON OTHER SIDE IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

There are no exceptions for any player disqualified from a contest under Rule 49. He/she must be suspended from the next contest **that is part of their regular season schedule or in tournament play** (in baseball, ice hockey, and soccer the penalty is two contests) unless it falls under one of the rules below:

I. Please check if the violation was for fighting, punching or kicking an opposing player, or spitting at someone  
a.  Rule 49.3.1 (2 game suspension)

II. Each of the following (a and b) requires a ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION in all sports.

Please check ONLY if this is a violation of:

a.  Rule 49.6 ("... physically assaults an official.")

b.  Rule 49.7 ("... willfully, flagrantly, or maliciously attempts to injure an opponent.")

**Rule 49.13** Any student athlete who is disqualified (see Rule 49.3) from any interscholastic contest must complete the National Federation Sportsmanship on-line course – "Sportsmanship", before reestablishing eligibility. This course is free. The "certificate of completion" must be submitted to the school athletic director.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL GIVING PENALTY

PLEASE PRINT NAME

DATE

Revised 9/12/14

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## COACH CONTEST DISQUALIFICATION FORM

(MIAA reference Rule 49)

### SPECIAL REPORT FROM ATHLETIC OFFICIAL/COACH

All disqualifications must be explained in writing immediately after the contest by the official and coach on separate forms to the Athletic Director and the Principal of the school. There are no exceptions for any coach expelled from a contest. If the game official fails to file his/her report, the coach is still bound by the suspension. He/she must be excluded from the next contest **that is part of their regular season schedule or in tournament play**. Disqualifications from ice hockey, soccer and baseball are for the next two contests.

REPORT FROM \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF INCIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME - GAME OFFICIAL or COACH (Circle One)

SPORT: \_\_\_\_\_  Boys  Girls

LEVEL (check)  Varsity  Sub-Varsity  MIAA Tournament

CONTEST BETWEEN \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME HIGH SCHOOL VISITING HIGH SCHOOL

EXCLUDED COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME SCHOOL

**SPECIFIC INCIDENT BEING REPORTED** (with appropriate explanations included):

There are no exceptions for any coach disqualified from a contest under Rule 49. He/she must be suspended from the next contest **that is part of their regular season schedule or in tournament play** (in baseball, ice hockey, and soccer the penalty is two contests) unless it falls under the rule below:

- The following requires a **ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION** in all sports.

Please check **ONLY** if this is a violation of:  Rule 49.6 ("... physically assaults an official.")

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Procedures to be followed:

1. Person in charge of each contest is responsible for having these forms available.
2. At the conclusion of the contest, the **official and coach must each complete a separate form and give it to the person in charge of the contest.**
3. The person in charge of the contest is responsible for sending both copies within 24 hours of the competition to the:
  - a. Principal of each school involved
  - b. Athletic Director of each school involved
  - c. Executive Director of MIAA
4. The principal or athletic director of the coach must forward immediately all copies of the official's and coach's report to the school superintendent.



# GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING SAFETY



- **Recognition** - Anytime the lightning can be seen or thunder heard, the risk is already present. (Clouds, rain etc. does not have to be in your immediate area.)
- **Flash to Bang** - Generally a 30 second or less flash-to-bang count suggests *GET OFF THE FIELD !*
- **Safe structures** - Find one, car building gym, wooden pavilion
- **Thirty-minute Rule** - Once lightning has been recognized, wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or thunder is heard.



# EMSOA MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ANNUAL PATCHES WITH THE CURRENT YEAR

