

2009 Fall Soccer Yellow Card Experiment – 5 Minute Sit Out

The basic premise of this rule experiment is to deter poor behavior during PIAA member school soccer contests. The text of the PIAA's rule experiment penalty (approved by NFHS) as a state association adoption is as follows:

Experiment with Rule 12-8-1, Penalty, to provide for a 5-minute playing time sit out following the issuance of a yellow card to a player, with the opportunity for that player's Team to substitute for that player. A cautioned player may return to the field as a substitute, following the 5-minute playing time sit out period.

YELLOW CARD PROCEDURE- 5 MINUTE SIT OUT:

When a player receives a yellow card for a cautionable offense as detailed in NFHS Soccer Rule 12-8-1 Misconduct, the player shall leave the field and remain at the team bench area until the five minute cooling off period is served. The contest official will inform the scorer/timer and they will record the exit and entrance time of the offending player on a form that will be held tableside by the scorer/timer. A player may not return to play until the full five minutes are served.

DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURE:

During the 2009-10 PIAA fall soccer Regular season and Post-season, a disqualified soccer player, coach and/or team personnel shall not be permitted to participate for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition. For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s). In accordance with Article XIII, Section 8 of the PIAA By-Laws and NFHS Soccer Rules 12-6, 12-8-3, 12-8-4 and 12-8-5. The head referee must complete and file this form as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the soccer game in which the disqualification took place by forwarding it to the above address. This form is not to be completed for those individuals receiving a "SOFT RED" card (red and yellow card) under Rule 12-8-2 where a substitution is permitted.

RESULTS:

The resultant of this experiment based upon the submitted disqualification reports from the contest officials who ejected the respective players from contests indicated that 354 players, coaches and bench personnel were ejected from boys and girls soccer contests for the 2009 fall season. A longitudinal look at the number of all FALL SOCCER disqualifications over the past eleven year period illustrates the following:

1999 - 393	2005 - 406
2000 - 366	2006 - 364
2001 - 398	2007 - 383
2002 - 426	2008 - 269
2003 - 412	<u>2009 - 354</u>
2004 - 404	4175

Player or Coach/Level	2007	2008 % Increase (Decrease)	2009 % Increase (Decrease) From 2007	2009 % Increase (Decrease) From 2008
Boys' Varsity	255	166 (34.90%)	226 (11.37%)	36.14%
Boys' JV/Jr. High	47	40 (14.89%)	28 (40.4%)	(30.00%)
Boys' Varsity Coach	31	23 (25.81%)	49 58.06%	113.04%
Boys' JV/Jr. High Coach	11	6 (45.45%)	5 (54.54%)	(16.67%)
Girls' Varsity	30	17 (43.33%)	28 (6.67%)	64.70%
Girls' JV/Jr. High	0	3 300.00%	1 100%	(66.67%)
Girls' Varsity Coach	8	14 75.00%	16 100%	14.29%
Girls' JV/Jr. High Coach	1	0 (100.00%)	1 0%	100.00%
Totals	383	269 (29.77%)	354 (7.57%)	31.60%

DISCUSSION:

Overall, we have still seen a 7.57 % decrease in the overall disqualifications since the 2007 year. Additionally, even with this year's increases, 2009 was the second lowest year in cumulative cards in the 11 year history of this study.

Comparing the figures to the 2007 fall season, our biggest increases have been illustrated in the coaching area of boys' and girls' varsity coaches. This certainly is troublesome and we do not have one main reason on why this is occurring. We believe there are numerous facets to this which include, but it is not limited to, the employing of the non-faculty coach, lack of understanding in the differences in rules codes, lack of tolerance by contest officials, communication breakdowns and coach frustration,

Another, item to be considered was prior to the 2008 season coaches were initially informed that PIAA Board of Directors was considering a rules modification that a team who has a player who has been yellow carded, that team will play down a player ("play short") for the 5 minute sit-out. This would be comparable to the NFHS Field Hockey Rule 8-2, where on the issuance of a yellow card for misconduct, the team will play short for a 5 minute period.

After much debate, this proposal was modified to allow for a substitution on the carded player and the team would not have to not play "short". With the soccer coaches' involvement in making the modification, it was emphasized at all rules interpretation meetings and coaches communicated through their avenues of communication to be cognizant of their behavior. After a year of this, the emphasis may have worn off and, therefore, we will again make this a PIAA point of emphasis for the 2010 fall season.

Thank you for allowing us to utilize this rules modification. We would like to continue this pilot study for one more year to see if we can observe another reduction in ejections. We are forwarding this request in the attached correspondence.