

SOCCER BULLETIN I

Rules, Revisions and Interpretations

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

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Several issues and questions have developed over the last few weeks and we are sharing them with everyone to assist with consistent enforcement statewide.

Suspension of Play: Rule 7-1-3:

If a match is suspended for any reason the restart as adopted by PIAA is as follows: *Re-start at the point of suspension if less than one half is played. If one half or more than one-half is played and a winner is determined, it is an official game and the result stands. If a winner cannot be determined, the game is resumed from the point of suspension. If more than one-half is played and the match is tied, the schools by mutual agreement can decide to call the game a tie, but that decision is left to the schools to decide.*

Tie Breaking Procedures: Rule 7-3-1:

Regular Season: Tie Contests, as follows: Senior High matches tied at the end of 80 minutes of play shall be resolved by playing no more than two "sudden victory" overtime periods not to exceed ten minutes each. Overtime for varsity matches is not an option, some type of overtime must be played. Leagues can decide on the length of time of the overtime periods, but they may not exceed ten minutes each. Regular season matches tied at the end of overtime **MAY NOT** be decided by Penalty Kicks. The use of penalty kicks to decide a winner is reserved for Regular season tournaments and post regular season contests.

Injury Substitution: Rule 3-3-1-c-2:

Any player who is attended to on the field, including the goalkeeper, or who in the opinion of the referee is injured, shall leave the field and may be replaced. There has been some confusion about this rule applying to the goalkeeper, which it does. A referee may stop time and attend to any player and so long as that player is not attended to by a coach, trainer, bench personnel, or anyone other than the referee, that player may remain in the match.

Penalty Kicks: Rule 14-1-4:

Once the kicker starts his/her approach toward the ball, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement in attempting to strike the ball. The ball must be played directly without hesitation in the offensive player's movement. This means the kicker (offensive player) may not feign, stutter-step, zig-zag or interrupt their movement towards the ball in any way. The NFHS rule is different than NCAA and USSF. If a player does interrupt their direct playing of the ball, they will be verbally admonished at the next stoppage of play. If this action is, again, repeated by the kicker, it will result in a caution and removal for the five minute sit out period.

As a review of the penalty chart on page 62 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book, the plays that follow are based upon the attacking team violating. If the kicker interrupts their movement and the ball goes in the net, the result is a re-kick, since the kicker violated. If the ball goes over the end line, it becomes a goal kick. If the goalkeeper makes a save, continue play. If the goalkeeper deflects the ball over the goal line, and the attacking team has made a violation, the result is an indirect free kick for the defense. If there is a violation by the attacking team and the goalkeeper deflects the ball, or the ball hits the goalpost, play is restarted by an indirect free kick by the defense.

Systems of Officiating:

PIAA recognizes ONLY the Dual and Double Dual Systems of Officiating. No other systems are sanctioned. If only one registered PIAA referee shows up at a match, and if no other PIAA registered referees are available, the match may be played using only one PIAA referee, if both coaches agree. This is not desirable, or ideal, but sometimes circumstances arise where this may occur. Parents, club linesmen, referees other than PIAA registered, may not be used to run the lines and call out of bounds, or off sides. The individual, PIAA registered referee will be solely responsible for handling the match and both coaches must agree or the match will need to be rescheduled.

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