

# GIRLS' SPRING SOCCER BULLETIN

## Rules, Revisions and Interpretations

APRIL 2011

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PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

### SIGNALS

Although the National Federation has authorized different officials signals, the PIAA will continue to use the 2009-2010 signal chart for all contests.

### INJURY SUBSTITUTION

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 confer with any player and so long as that player is not attended to by a coach, trainer, bench personnel, or anyone other than an official, that player may remain in the match.

### CORNER KICKS

The correct position for the lead referee on corner kicks taken on the lead official's side, is behind the corner flag until the player has taken the kick. On corner kicks taken from other side, the lead official may take a position just inside the 18 on the goal line. In both examples, the trail official must be on the attacking side of mid-field in a good position to support the lead referee and watch for play inside the penalty area.

### BRACES AND/OR CASTS

A doctor's excuse is no longer required for any player wearing a brace or cast. Unless required as a part of the brace, officials should not be suggesting or requiring a brace to be wrapped or a sleeve placed over the brace.

## 17th PIAA OFFICIALS' CONVENTION

AUGUST 12th & 13th, 2011

HOLIDAY INN HARRISBURG EAST

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## COMMENTS ON CONCUSSION RULE

Many questions have developed due to the new concussion rule with the heightened awareness and increased concern about concussions at all levels of play in all sports. We have a rules change in the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. It is on page 16, Rule 3-3-1c3 and reads as follows: "Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as a loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the match and shall not return to competition until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional." (See NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion, in Appendix a on page 72.) This statement has been adopted for all sports that NFHS writes rules for competition. To interpret how to apply this rule, you must read the point of emphasis on page 69 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book. Following are some situations and statements that may help you apply the rule:

There are **two suggested procedures** of how to handle these type of situations. *(1) If an official believes a player is exhibiting symptoms of a concussion they may remove them from the contest per rule, or (2) if an official believes a player is exhibiting symptoms of a concussion they may engage a "pre-emptive strike" of requesting the bench personnel (athletic trainer/physician and head coach) to take a look at the player before they determine if they believe the player is exhibiting these type of symptoms. If the player is removed by the official, or team personnel, officials are to make note of this on their game card by writing down the player's number and time of game of removal and any other details the official believes to be appropriate (who, what, when, where, why, & how). If the official is not sure if symptoms of a concussion exist, he/she may consult with on site medical staff (trainer or physician) to get an opinion. If the opinion is no concussion symptoms are present, then resume playing.*

If there is an athletic trainer at a contest, they may assist in making the decision if a player is exhibiting signs of concussion and their continuation in the competition. If the athletic trainer allows the student-athlete to continue, the officials responsibility is to be continually aware of the possible signs of concussion by the player and if symptoms appear, they may remove the player or request the team to re-evaluate this player before they continue. Officials are to note this upon their game card and request teams to note this in their scorebook. If a school needs to follow up with paperwork it is the responsibility of the school, not the responsibility of the official.

Additionally, if there is a designated athletic trainer for the event, they have medical jurisdiction. This is usually the home team trainer. Also, the visiting coach may not refuse to allow the designated health professional access to examine their player. If there is no designated health care professional present at a contest or tournament and the visitors have one with them, the opposing team may request assistance from that health-care professional. However, if they are told that their player cannot continue, the health-care professional shall not be overruled. The preceding comments regarding the jurisdiction of health-care professionals applies to other injuries as well as concussions. The NFHS Soccer Rules Book eliminated the need for the officials to receive a written note from a physician in order to continue. **This is still a requirement of PIAA through use of the CIPPE form, but this is now part of the eligibility rule for the school. It is not paperwork needed by an official. Once the player leaves the field they are under the school's eligibility provisions of this rule. Officials observe, determine and remove as needed on a case by case basis.**