



## Frequently Asked Questions on Uniforms and Contest Delays Men's and Women's Soccer – 2020-21

*(This document includes specific NCAA Soccer Rules references where applicable.)*

### **1. What words, logos and symbols are allowed on the jersey?**

Other than the uniform number, here are the only items allowed by rule on the jersey (Rule 4.1):

#### Words (Rule 4.1.5)

- Player's name on the back.
- School name or nickname on front or back.
- Mascot name on front or back.
- As authorized by the institution/conference, names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back where the player name is traditionally located.

#### Logos/Patches (Rules 4.1.6, 4.1.7 and 4.1.12)

- Institutional and conference logo/patch on the front or sleeve (contained within a four-sided geometrical figure and does not exceed 2¼-square inches).
- National flag of the institution on the front or sleeve (contained within a four-sided geometrical figure and does not exceed 2¼-square inches).
- As authorized by the institution/conference, one commemorative/memorial patch on the front or sleeve (contained within a four-sided geometrical figure and does not exceed 2¼-square inches).
- One manufacturer's or distributor's logo or trademark (contained within a four-sided geometrical figure and does not exceed 2¼-square inches).

### **2. What size restrictions are there for these?**

See above for logo and patch size restrictions.

### **3. Are any words other than the player's name allowed on the back?**

See above for names/words that are permitted on the back of the uniform.

### **4. May the jersey contain any other words, slogans, messaging, etc.?**

No, the jersey is restricted to the items listed above. No other words are allowed on the jersey.

### **5. Are words allowed on wristbands and other attachments?**

The rules do not specifically address wristbands or other attachments, however, items likely to cause injury must be removed. (Rule 4.2.1)

### **6. Do uniforms have to be the same for all team members?**

Rule 4.1.8 requires players of a team to wear matching uniforms. However, team members are not all required to wear the permitted commemorative/memorial patch, but patches must be identical for those who choose to wear them. In addition, team members are permitted to wear different nameplates.

**7. *How does the unsportsmanlike acts rule apply?***

- Offenses for which an indirect free kick shall be awarded are: Unsporting behavior, including inappropriate language. (Rule 12.2.8)
- Any player, coach, team representative or participant listed on the official roster shall be cautioned a maximum of one yellow card per game for committing any of the following offenses: Engaging in other acts of unsporting behavior, including taunting, excessive celebration, simulating a foul, exaggerating an injury, baiting, substituting illegally or ridiculing another player, bench personnel, officials or spectators. (Rule 12.4.3.5)

**8. *What are the rules about jersey colors for opposing teams?***

It is the prerogative of the home team to select uniform colors. However, in the event of a conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to wear jerseys and stockings in clear contrast to those worn by the visiting team. (Rule 4.1.8)

**9. *What are the rules about the contrast of jerseys and numbers?***

- Numerals at least 8 inches in height that are easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern shall be worn on the back of each player's (including goalkeeper's) jersey. (Rule 4.1.3)
- Numerals at least 4 inches in height that are easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern shall be worn on the front of each player's (including goalkeeper's) jersey. (Rule 4.1.4)
- Numerals are required on the front and back of the jersey, and no two teammates may wear the same number. (Rule 4.1.2)

**10. *What is the penalty for wearing a jersey whose numbers do not contrast?***

Any player not conforming to Rules 4.1 through 4.2.5 shall not be permitted to play. Moreover, after being instructed to leave the field, provided he/she has not been substituted for, a player shall not re-enter the game without first reporting to the referee, who shall be satisfied that the player's uniform, shoes and equipment are in order.

**11. *What is the purpose of the rules regarding numbering and visibility?***

The rules for contrasting numbers and visibility are intended to provide clearly visible numbers for the stakeholders: coaches, fans, media, television audience, etc. This means that the numbers should be clearly visible at a distance under a variety of weather and lighting conditions.

**12. *What is the rule regarding refusal to play?***

- The referee has discretionary power to terminate the game if: Declare a "no contest" when a team without prior notification is not on the field and prepared to play within 15 minutes after the contracted starting time, unless evidence of extenuating circumstances can be provided. (Rule 5.6.6)

- When a scheduled game is terminated before it begins, it is recorded as “no contest.” Neither team is credited with a win or loss, regardless of the reason why the game was terminated. (Rule 7.4.1)
- If a game is forfeited during play, the statistics only count if at least 70 minutes have been completed. If a game in progress is declared a forfeit win to one of the teams by the game officials and the game has not progressed to a reasonable point of conclusion (70 minutes), then the official game score shall be 1-0. The team’s won-lost record shall include the forfeit, but the statistics are voided as a result of 70 minutes not being played; all averages shall be computed without the inclusion of the forfeited contest. (Rule 7.4.2)
- A suspended game is considered a temporary action (because of elements or other causes). If the conditions leading to a suspended game persist and the game is not resumed the same day, the game shall be considered “no contest” if it has not progressed to 70 minutes. (Rules 7.5.1 and 7.5.2)

***13. Are there any playing rules that specify protocols for student-athletes and/or coaches during the national anthem?***

No. Participants should be allowed to express their opinions (e.g., kneeling during the national anthem) as long as the action does not delay or disrupt competition.

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