



**2021-22 NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Official Rules Interpretations,  
Clarifications and Situations**

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<b><u>Rule(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Interpretation/Clarification/Situation</u></b>
5.6.9	8/9/2021	<p><b>ARTIFICIAL CROWD NOISE</b></p> <p>Artificial crowd noise is permitted during the 2021-22 soccer season under the following stipulations: 1) Items listed in Rule 5.6.9, including whistles and air horns, may not be a part of the crowd noise; 2) The artificial crowd noise may not drown out the officials' whistles or disrupt the officials' management of the game; 3) Amplified music, as outlined in A.R. 5.6.9.a, is still only permitted during pregame, period intervals, and anytime the clock is stopped and the ball is not in play; and 4) The referee shall have the authority to regulate and/or eliminate the artificial crowd noise in the event he/she determines that it is interfering with the conduct of the game.</p> <p>Conferences are encouraged to approve the crowd noise being used by its institutions.</p>
7.1.1.1	8/9/2021	<p><b>INJURED PLAYER DURING THE TIEBREAKER</b></p> <p>...If any of the designated players, except for the goalkeeper, are ejected <u>or injured</u> during the tiebreaker, the game will continue with the remaining designated players; and the opposing team, if desired, shall have the option to reduce or adjust its kicking order to avoid being penalized or placed at a disadvantage if the No. 1 kicker from Team A ends up kicking against the No. 10 kicker from Team B...</p>
11.1 Note, and 12.1.7	8/9/2021	<p><b>OFFSIDE/HANDBALL CLARIFICATIONS</b></p> <p>11.1 Note: The position of any part of the player's head, body or feet will be the deciding factor, <del>not the player's arms.</del> <u>The portion of the arm that is below the bottom of the armpit is not considered when determining offside position.</u></p> <p>12.1.7 Handling the ball <u>(not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offense);</u></p> <p>12.1.7.1 It is an offense if a player:</p> <p>12.1.7.1.1 Deliberately touches the ball with his/her hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm toward the ball;</p> <p>12.1.7.1.2 Scores in the opponent's goal directly from his/her hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper;</p> <p>12.1.7.1.3 After the ball has touched his/her <del>or a teammate's</del> hand/arm, even if accidental, immediately <del>(1) scores in the opponent's goal or (2) creates a goal-scoring opportunity;</del> or</p> <p>12.1.7.1.4 Touches the ball with his/her hand/arm when <del>(1) the hand/ arm has made his/her body unnaturally bigger or (2) the hand/arm is above/beyond shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then</del></p>

~~touches his/her hand/arm). A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a result of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized.~~

~~12.1.7.2 The offenses in Rule 12.1.7.1 apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.~~

~~12.1.7.3 Except for the offenses in Rule 12.1.7.1, it is not an offense if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:~~

~~12.1.7.3.1 Directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot);~~

~~12.1.7.3.2 Directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close;~~

~~12.1.7.3.3 If the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger; or~~

~~12.1.7.3.4 When a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body.~~

Notes:

1. Except for 12.1.7.1.2, this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her penalty area.

2. For purposes of determining handball offenses, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.