



## MEMORANDUM

August 11, 2022

### VIA EMAIL

TO: Men's and Women's Soccer Conference Commissioners, DI Conference Administrators, Directors of Athletics, Senior Woman Administrators at Conferences and Institutions and Head Coaches.

FROM: Patrick Britz, chair  
NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee.

Rich Grady, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Soccer Playing Rules Reminders for the 2022 Season.

As a new playing season approaches, the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee would like to remind you of a few important items for the 2022 season. The 2022 season will be the first year using the 2022 and 2023 NCAA Soccer Rules Book, which can be downloaded as a PDF [here](#). The 2022 and 2023 major rules changes and 2022 points of emphasis are available on the NCAA soccer playing rules [website](#) under Updates. As rules questions and interpretations are issued throughout the 2022 season, they also will be available on the NCAA soccer playing rules website under Updates.

1. Expanded Postgame Protest Procedure (Rule 5.8.1): The postgame protest procedure was expanded to include a review of violent behavior II and fighting red cards. This is in addition to the other two situations that may be protested – player identification and illegal participation by ejected or suspended student-athletes, coaches and team personnel. **In order for a violent behavior II or fighting red card to be reviewed, the protest, including video of the incident, must be submitted by the conference office or coordinator of officials.** The scope would be limited to changing a violent behavior II or fighting red card (two-game suspension) to a violent behavior I red card (one-game suspension). A committee consisting of the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA National Coordinator of Soccer Officials and one NCAA Soccer Regional Advisor, who is not affiliated with the team, conference or region, will consider the protest and render a decision. The Soccer Protest Form is available [here](#).
2. Overtime – Regular Season (Rule 7.1.1): For regular-season games, overtime has been eliminated. If a regular-season game is tied at the end of the regulation 90 minutes, it shall be considered complete and recorded as a tie.
3. Overtime – Postseason (Rule 7.1.1): For postseason games, including conference tournament and NCAA tournament games, overtime shall be played. If a postseason game is tied at the end of the regulation 90 minutes, two overtime periods of 10 minutes shall be played in their entirety.

4. Suspended Game (Rule 7.5): A suspended game shall be resumed from the point of interruption whether it is resumed the same day or another day. See Rule 7.5 and associated approved rulings (A.R.s) for more information.
5. Suspensions and Illegal Participation (Rules 12.7.4 and 12.8): Spitting at, biting or coughing at/on an opponent or any other person has been enhanced to a violent behavior II red card (two-game suspension). As a reminder, ejected and suspended personnel, including players, coaches and team personnel, cannot participate in the next regularly scheduled game(s) and suspensions carry over from the previous playing season. Depending upon the reason for the suspension, the suspension period may include more than one game. This rule also applies to transfer student-athletes.

The penalty on a head coach for participating or allowing an ejected or suspended player or assistant coach to illegally participate in a game was enhanced beginning with the 2018 season. The enhanced suspension for the head coach applies in all instances when illegal personnel participate in a game, including red card or yellow card accumulation suspensions. Note that the appropriate penalty will be imposed regardless of the circumstances and even if the mistake was made unintentionally or if there was a lack of knowledge of the rules. To assist in ensuring ejections and suspensions are appropriately served, the NCAA Soccer Red Card Depository will continue to track red cards and send notifications to conferences and institutions alerting the conference commissioner, director of athletics and head coach when a red card has been issued. Division I conference soccer administrators are also included on the email.

6. Game Roster (Rule 3.2.1): With the rules change eliminating the pregame roster exchange between teams and from teams to officials, it is imperative that the official scorekeeper obtain verification of the box score from all officials after the game is over. Officials will need to rely on this information in submitting postgame reports to assignors and to the NCAA.
7. Offside Interpretation: The NCAA will be consistent with the most recent interpretations (July 27, 2022) from the International Football Association Board (IFAB) with respect to the definition of the ball being deliberately played by an opponent negating a potential offside. The full interpretation is available [here](#).
8. Sportsmanship: The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee wants to emphasize the importance of mutual respect and integrity, which embody good sportsmanship, during the 2022 men's and women's soccer season. There is a responsibility from administrators, coaches and officials to serve as leaders and role models in this regard.
9. ArbiterSports Center Circle Registration: Head coaches are again encouraged to register on the [NCAA Soccer Center Circle](#). It continues to be free for conference staff and head coaches

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and houses rules interpretations, clarifications, announcements and updates issued during the season. Officiating updates, clarifications and videos are also posted to Center Circle. If you registered last year, you would need to re-register this year to continue having access to all of the important information.

Should you have any rules questions, please contact Rich Grady at [ncaasoccersre@gmail.com](mailto:ncaasoccersre@gmail.com); or 847-644-1206.

Thank you in advance for your support and have a great season.

PB/RG:af

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee  
NCAA Registered Soccer Officials  
Selected NCAA Staff Members