



NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations
2022 Season, Volume 2
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This update includes issues addressed up to August 29, 2022. Volume 1 may be viewed on [Center Circle](#) under Rules of the Game or the NCAA playing rules [website](#) under Updates.

1. **Use of Advantage.** Please keep in mind the following regarding the use of advantage when a foul is committed in an attempt to stop a promising attack or deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
 - a. In cases of advantage applied for a foul to stop a promising attack, by applying advantage, the referee is indicating that the promising attack still exists, so no cautions should be issued unless the foul was reckless.
 - b. In cases of advantage applied for a reckless challenge, the referee can and should go back and issue the caution when the ball next goes out of play.
 - c. In cases of advantage applied for a foul to deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity, by applying advantage, the referee is indicating that the obvious goal scoring opportunity still exists, so the offense is downgraded to a caution, which should be issued when the ball next goes out of play.
2. **Player Safety.** Referees are expected to continue paying attention to the Points of Emphasis with respect to rough play, stopping a promising attack, correctly identifying violent behavior II and fighting offenses, and bench decorum as listed [here](#).
3. **Player Identification.** Referees are reminded that they should use all the tools at their disposal, including crew conferences and video review where available, to ensure that disciplinary cards are charged to the correct individual. In addition, referees should adhere to established mechanics when issuing a card so that it is clear to the scorekeeper which player has been cautioned or ejected. Players should be isolated and the card displayed to an individual.
4. **Ejection Reports.** As a reminder, referees are required to submit the [NCAA Red Card Form](#) for any red card issued during a game. Reports should contain factual information that is pertinent to the situation and not stray into areas of opinion or interpretation. Referees should make sure that the details included in any ejection report are accurate. Where possible, referees should consult any available video before submitting the ejection report to ensure accuracy; however, a call should not be changed after review of video (e.g., a card issued for fighting on the field can't be changed to violent behavior I once the video is reviewed). Coaches and administrators of the institutions receive copies of these reports.
5. **Field Setup and Player Safety.** It is the prerogative of the host institution to place sign boards or other forms of advertising around the field. Rule 1.15 **recommends** a spectator restraining line at a minimum distance of 20 feet from the field of play. This means that an institution may choose to place sign boards or have restraining lines closer than 20 feet from the boundary lines. Referees are asked to use good judgment

and cooperate with the host institution where possible, however, the number one priority is the safety of the participants, including the officials. If an official feels that a situation is potentially unsafe, they should work with game administration to address the concerns. Rule 5.5.1.2 specifies that the referee shall inspect the field conditions. If any concerns exist, referees should refer to the penalty comment under Rule 5.5.1 quoted here. **PENALTY—(5.5.1.1 to 5.5.1.10)—Violations involving field conditions, uniforms, equipment or other items shall be reported immediately to the appropriate governing sports authority and, if possible, necessary changes or repairs shall be made before the contest.**

6. **Clock Stoppage for Substitutions.** According to Rule 3.7.2, the referee is **required** to stop the clock in the final five minutes of the second period anytime there is a substitution involving the winning team. There is no requirement to stop the clock for substitutions in the final five minutes of a game that is tied. However, per A.R. 6.3.5, the referee does have the ability to stop the clock at any point if the referee believes that a team is using substitution as an unsporting tactic to unfairly consume time.