



NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations
2022 Season, Volume 4
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This update includes issues addressed up to October 18, 2022. Volumes 1, 2, and 3 may be viewed on [Center Circle](#) under Rules of the Game or the NCAA playing rules [website](#) under Updates.

1. **Video Review.** Referees must be familiar with Rule 5.7.3 and the proper application of video review. The only authorized uses of video review are for:
 - a. 5.7.3.1 Determining whether the entire ball passed over the goal line, which includes end of period timing issues;
 - b. 5.7.3.2 Identifying players for disciplinary matters;
 - c. 5.7.3.3 Determining whether a fight occurred and identifying all participants;
 - d. 5.7.3.4 Determining whether violent behavior I or II occurred and identifying all participants;
 - e. 5.7.3.5 Correcting timing errors, which must be corrected at the next stoppage of play and before the next restart; and
 - f. 5.7.3.6 Determining whether a foul occurred inside the defending team's penalty area.

Referees cannot initiate video review to determine if the severity of a tackle warrants a red or yellow card, nor can they use video to determine if the conditions for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity exist.

2. **Authorized Devices for Video Review.** The only parameters that apply to the device used for video review is that the device must be available to the referee on the field level and the referee must be able to see the video clearly. See A.R. 5.7.a for further details. This means that the referee cannot go to the press box level at the top of the stadium for video review. The device does not have to be for the exclusive use of the referees, but it does need to be available for them to use when required.
3. **Fighting and Violent Behavior II Ejections.** So far this season, there have been 16 successful protests where a fighting or violent behavior II ejection (red card) has been reduced to a violent behavior I ejection (red card) as per Rule 5.8.1.1. Referees are again reminded that there are specific criteria for fighting (throwing a punch) and for violent behavior II (spitting, biting, and unwarranted malicious and extreme acts that pose a risk of physical injury). Referees should only assess a fighting or violent behavior II red card when the criteria for that penalty have been met. Offenses which do not meet these criteria should be considered as violent behavior I.
4. **Timing and End of Period Scenarios.** Referees must properly manage the clock in end of period situations. If an unfair act or misconduct has been committed that should result in the clock being stopped, then stop the clock. Examples of this would include defenders kicking the ball away or not retreating 10 yards. If a foul has been called but the defending team does nothing else wrong, the clock should not be stopped just so the restart can be taken. Either way, it is imperative that referees clearly signal to the timekeeper so there is no confusion. Please do not indicate wait for the whistle by pointing to the whistle while both hands are extended overhead. This can easily be mistaken for a stop the clock signal.

5. **Caution Accumulation.** Referees must continue to verify box scores at the conclusion of the match so that misconduct cards are accurately reported. Teams must have accurate knowledge of how many yellow and red cards a player has earned in order to ensure that the proper suspension is served.
6. **Substitutions.** There was an incident from a recent match where a goal was scored with 12 players on the field for the scoring team. This should never happen. Officials, including alternate officials where applicable, must ensure that each team has the correct number of players at the beginning of every period and each time there is a substitution.
7. **Definition of Postseason.** Postseason play begins with conference tournaments that select the automatic qualifier for the NCAA tournament. This has ramifications for the following:
 - a. Overtime. Two, full ten-minute periods, played to completion. Please review Rule 7.1.1.
 - b. Clock stoppage for substitutions involving the team leading in the last five minutes of the second overtime.
 - c. Penalty kick tie-breakers. Please review Rules 7.1.1.1 through 7.1.1.7.
 - d. Caution accumulation. Players or coaches who have less than five cautions entering the postseason will not be subject to suspension for caution accumulation until their eighth yellow card. Players or coaches who have received five or more during the regular season will be suspended for caution accumulation after receiving their eighth yellow card (regular and postseason combined). Players and coaches who are suspended for reaching the eight (8) yellow card threshold are subject to further suspension for accumulation for each two yellow cards received thereafter (i.e., totals of 10, 12, etc.)