



**NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations**  
**2023 Season, Volume 2**  
**Rich Grady, Secretary-Rules Editor**

This update includes issues addressed up to August 30, 2023. Volume 1 may be viewed on [Center Circle](#) under Rules of the Game or the NCAA playing rules [website](#) under Updates.

1. **Follow up to last week's memo on cancellations/delays/postponements.** Prior to the kickoff of the match, the home team and/or the conference are permitted to cancel, postpone or delay the game due to adverse weather conditions. There is not a national policy on heat with the exception of required hydration breaks and host institutions should work in conjunction with their opponents and the governing sports authorities to make decisions.
2. **Ejection reports.** As a reminder, per Rule 12.7.2, NCAA soccer officials are required to electronically submit the NCAA Soccer Red Card/Ejection Form within **24 hours of the completion of the contest** for any red card (ejection) issued during a contest. The form is available [here](#) on Center Circle under Forms or on the public-facing RQ+ site [here](#). When an official submits the ejection form, the NCAA Sports Ejection Reporting system will send an automated email notification to the reporting official, conference commissioner, coordinator/assignor of officials, director of athletics and head coach of the offender's institution. Contact information for the automated email notification is pulled directly from the NCAA Directory. A depository of ejection reports also is available to conference staff only. Reports should contain an explanation of the offense. For example: In the 24th minute of the match, prior to a corner kick for team Y, #5 from team X, John Doe, punched #7 from team Y, Tom Jones, in the face with a closed fist in a severe and malicious manner placing Mr. Jones in danger of physical injury. #5 John Doe was ejected for fighting. Mr. Doe left the field of play with no further incidents and play was restarted with a corner kick to team Y.
3. **Retrieving the ball from the net after a goal.** Under NCAA rules, there is no reason for a player to run into the goal to collect the ball after scoring. The clock is stopped in these situations, so there is no tactical benefit to rushing to retrieve the ball. Indeed, there is a significant risk of creating or escalating a confrontation that need not have occurred. [Here](#) is an example from a recent game. The result of this confrontation was an ejection and two other players being cautioned. Coaches are encouraged to educate their players on the rules so that they will not engage in this type of activity. Officials are reminded to be on the lookout for this behavior and to take proactive steps to prevent it from escalating.
4. **Players leaving the field after being substituted.** Per A.R. 3.7.1.b, players leaving the game after being substituted must do so on the team bench side of the field. Allowing players to depart on the spectator side, where there may be security concerns, is not permitted unless the player is injured and is assisted off the field by medical personnel.