



NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations
2024 Season, Volume 2
Rich Grady, Secretary-Rules Editor

This update includes issues addressed up to September 2, 2024.

1. **Permanent Medical Conditions.** Please note that per Rule 3.7.3, “A player who has a permanent medical condition with the potential to produce serious injury or death through sustained physical exertion (e.g., sickle cell trait) may be substituted at any time when medically necessary and reenter the game without the limitations imposed by Rule 3.5, which limits reentry. This exception may not be used more than one time by an individual student-athlete in a single competition. For example, a player could be substituted in the first half under this provision and return to the game later in that half.”

The following procedure is in place for implementation of this exception in Rule 3.7.3.1 “To be eligible for this medical reentry exception, the team physician must confirm the medical condition, its potential for producing serious injury or death, and the need for the player to be exempt from Rule 3.5. If the condition is established by a duly licensed physician other than the team physician, documentation must be provided to, and approved by, the institution’s team physician. Prior to the start of any game, the primary athletics health care provider or designee (e.g., coach) shall present documentation to the game officials and opposing coach that establishes that the player has been granted a medical exception to the reentry rule.

Neither the opposing coach nor the game officials need to know the specific medical condition. The physician’s statement covered above is sufficient documentation.

2. **Substitution Rules.** The following applies to both Men’s Division I and all other Men’s and Women’s Divisions. Coaches, officials and scorekeepers must know when players are not eligible to return to the match during a period:

- After being substituted during that period (DI Men)
- After being substituted during the 1st half (all other divisions)
- After being substituted following one reentry in the 2nd half (all other divisions)

Exceptions to the above involve bleeding injuries, possible concussion, injuries where the opponent was carded on the play and the permanent medical condition discussed in #1 above. To avoid confusion, it is recommended that the officiating team communicate to both sets of coaches when a substitution involving one of these exceptions occurs.

3. **Video Review Procedures.** Calls on the field should only be changed when video review shows indisputable video evidence that the call on the field was incorrect. Referees must make a decision on the field and indicate what that decision is prior to going to the monitor.
4. **Drone Usage.** Rule 1.12.4.3 is explicit that drones may not be used at any time from the beginning of warmups through the conclusion of the game. All institutions are expected to adhere to this policy. Concerns about non-compliance should be directed to the Governing Sports Authority, which is the conference for conference games and the two directors of athletics for non-conference games.

5. **Division I Men’s Substitutions Q & A.**

- a. A12 replaces A2 in the first half as A2 is examined for a concussion. Q: If A2 does

not return to the game, does this become a moment? A: No. A substitution that does not require the use of a moment when it occurs never retroactively becomes a moment.

- b. A12 replaces A2 in the first half as A2 is examined for a concussion. Q: If A2 is cleared and returns to the game in the second half for A12, is this considered a moment? A. No.
- c. Q: In the above scenario, is A12 eligible to reenter the match in the second period?
A: Yes.

6. **Advantage and misconduct cards.** In situations where the referee applies advantage after a foul that could have stopped a promising attack, the promising attack is still considered to exist and the referee shall not return to issue a caution when the ball goes out of play. If the referee applies advantage after a reckless foul, they shall return to issue a caution when the ball goes out of play. If the referee applies advantage after an unsuccessful attempt to deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity, the referee shall return to issue a caution when the ball goes out of play.