



**NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations**  
**2024 Season, Volume 6**  
**Rich Grady, Secretary-Rules Editor**

This update includes issues addressed up to November 4, 2024.

1. **Requests for Video Review.** Per Rule 1.12.4.1, "Electronic devices may not be used to question decisions made by game officials." Members of the coaching staff who engage in any of the following behaviors should be issued a yellow card:
  - Making references to replays either in the coaching area or on the scoreboard.
  - Making the video screen gesture that the referee uses to indicate a review.
  - Leaving the team area to make references to video replays to the officials.
  - Attempting to hand an iPad or other video device to an official.
  - Leaving the team area with an iPad or other video device to show it to an official.

The referee always retains the final decision to review a particular play. Coaches who attempt to pressure the referee into conducting a review must be held accountable. Even if the referee decides to initiate a review, the behavior detailed above must be punished.

2. **Postgame interactions with officials.** As postseason play begins, coaches and officials must be cognizant of the fact that the end of a match signifies the conclusion of a season or a career for student-athletes. Within the past week, there have been multiple ejections after the final whistle where players and coaches have confronted the officials to express dissent or engage in abusive language. Coaches must manage their players and themselves to prevent unpleasant interactions with the officials. Referees must recognize when emotions are elevated and seek to remove themselves from the area to avoid unnecessary confrontations. Game operations personnel should have a plan in place to mitigate the risk of confrontation and remove the officials from the scene safely if needed.
3. **Timeliness of Postgame Reports.** Officials should submit ejection reports as soon as possible after the conclusion of the match. With many teams playing on back-to-back days during the postseason, team and administrators need accurate information for planning purposes and to file potential protests.
4. **Ejections for Abusive Language.** When ejecting players or coaches for abusive language, officials must ensure that they heard the language correctly. In [this clip](#), the referee thought they heard the coach use profanity. In listening to the audio, the coach did not use profanity. Officials should not eject for something they believe they heard; ejections must be for things that they are 100% certain they heard.
5. **Definition of Regularly Scheduled Game for Serving Suspensions.** NCAA soccer rules require suspensions to be served in the next regularly scheduled game. The following principles apply:
  - a. The game must have been scheduled before the suspension was incurred. The only exception to this rule is if weather conditions or opponent withdrawal result in the game being cancelled through no fault of the team with the suspended player or

team personnel. In such cases, a substitute opponent may be found and the game will satisfy the suspension if point b. below is satisfied.

- b.** The game must be against a varsity team of a 4-year institution and it must be considered a regular season game by the team whose player is suspended.
- c.** Suspensions incurred in the final regular season game must be served in the first postseason game or in the first game of the following season if the institution does not qualify for the postseason.
- d.** If in any doubt, schools or conferences should contact the Secretary-Rules Editor.