



**NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations**  
**2025 Season, Volume 3**  
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This update includes issues addressed up to September 25, 2025. Additional video examples can be found on the NCAA Soccer Center Circle Central Hub on RQ+ in the 2025 NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations Volume 3 document.

1. **Video Review of Penalty Kicks.** While video review can be used to determine the accuracy of a penalty kick decision. If the referee reviews a play and determines that there is indisputable video evidence to overturn the call of a penalty kick, they are not permitted to add a yellow card for simulation.
2. **Ejection Reports.** There have been issues with ejection reports in the following areas:
  - a. **Timeliness.** Ejection reports should be submitted within 24 hours. Ejection reports submitted Tuesday afternoon for a Saturday game are not acceptable.
  - b. **Accuracy.** There continues to be errors made with ejection reports. Officials must ensure that they have the correct player and team when reporting ejections. Each ejection report is sent to the institution and conference office personnel. When incorrect teams are selected in the drop-down menu, the proper individuals are not notified in a timely fashion. In addition, the email being sent to incorrect teams and conference personnel generates unnecessary work.
  - c. **Professionalism.** Ejection reports must be factually correct and refrain from giving opinions. Editorial comments are unprofessional and calls into question the official's ability to render impartial judgments.
3. **Coaches Leaving the Coaching Area.** While coaches are normally at risk of a caution for leaving their coaching area, there is an exception. Rule 12.7.11.3 states "A coach or team representative who leaves the coaching area in an attempt to restore order during an altercation shall not be punished." Coaches have an integral role to play in helping to calm the situation, and they should not be given cards for leaving the coaching area when they are in fact helping the officials control the game.
4. **Requirements for Ejections for Fighting and Violent Behavior II.** Officials must notify the coaches and the scorekeeper of a fighting or violent behavior II ejection prior to the restart of play. During the past few weeks, officials have failed to comply with this requirement numerous times, including not notifying anyone until the submission of the ejection report, or waiting until the conclusion of the game to notify people. Fighting and violent behavior ejections where the officials do not follow the process outlined in the rule book cannot be supported or sustained during a protest, even if the decision might otherwise be correct on the merits.
5. **Violent Behavior II Ejections.** So far this season, there have been six successful protests of Violent Behavior II ejections. As a reminder, per Rule 12.7.10.2, "Violent behavior II is an unwarranted excessive act or use of force, which is malicious and so extreme and severe that it places a participant in danger of physical injury. These acts may include, but are not limited to, head butting, elbow to the face or head, stomping, kicking a defenseless person, hair

pulling, spitting at, coughing at/on or biting an opponent or any other person.” Aside from spitting, coughing at, and biting, which must always be Violent Behavior II, the other acts listed are not automatically Violent Behavior II. The officials still must determine if the action is extreme enough to pose a danger of injury. A two-game suspension is a serious punishment in a short season, and it should be reserved for acts that clearly warrant it. When in doubt, officials should err on the side of Violent Behavior I. Please see the various protest rulings on RQ+ for detailed reasoning on why the appeals committee voted in a particular way.

6. **Fighting Ejections.** So far this season, there have been seven successful protests of Fighting ejections. As a reminder, Rule 12.7.11.1 defines fighting as “a deliberate strike or punch or an attempt to strike or punch another player, official, coach or bench personnel in a malicious manner.” As with Violent Behavior II, officials should err on the side of a Violent Behavior I ejection unless they are certain that the requirements of the rule have been met. Please see the various protest rulings on RQ+ for detailed reasoning on why the appeals committee voted in a particular way.
7. **Accuracy of Box Scores.** There has been a significant decrease in the number of protests for mistaken identity, and officials should be commended for their work in this area. There is one area that has recently come to light; however, under Rule 5.6.4.2 Note, no individual can accumulate more than one yellow card in a game. The second yellow card and subsequent ejection should be listed in the box score as a red card. Listing both yellow cards in the box score leads to card accumulation totals in the NCAA statistics being incorrect, which can have a significant impact on players and coaches. When checking the box scores, officials must make sure that no player is listed with both two cautions and an ejection in the same game. The most any individual can accumulate is one caution and one ejection per match.