



**NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations**  
**2025 Season, Volume 4**  
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This update includes issues addressed up to October 10, 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 4 document.

1. **Timekeeping.** As we enter the final month of the regular season, officials and coaches are encouraged to refer to the preseason Points of Emphasis memorandum on timing. As a reminder, referees have the authority to stop the clock when addressing issues of time wasting or participant conduct, even if a caution is not given.
2. **Injury Management and Substitutions.** Referees have a responsibility to ensure player safety. This example was from a Division I men's game, and it is important to note that the team is permitted to substitute for the player if they have players who are eligible to enter the match even if they have no moments remaining. If the team is out of moments, the injury substitution is the only one they are permitted to make. No other tactical changes can be made. If the team is out of eligible players (i.e., all players on the bench have already been subbed out of the game for reasons other than the exceptions in Rule 3.7, then they will have to play short. In any game other than Division I men, the team would be able to substitute for the injured player under the provisions of Rule 3.7, and the player coming into the game would not be charged with an entry and the player leaving the game would be allowed to reenter without being charged for an entry if they are cleared by the appropriate medical personnel.
3. **Advantage and Cards for Misconduct.** When applying advantage, officials should keep the following concepts in mind:
  - a. If the advantage was applied for a reckless foul, the referee may come back and issue a caution when the ball next goes out of play. In such circumstances, the officials must maintain concentration to ensure that the proper player receives the card. All possible steps, including crew consultation and the use of video review, if available, must be taken to ensure that the correct player is cautioned.
  - b. If the advantage was applied for a foul that is an attempt to stop a promising attack, then according to Rule 12.4.11 Note 1, the referee is not permitted to come back and caution the player for stopping a promising attack because the application of advantage allowed the continuation of the promising attack.
  - c. If the advantage was applied for a foul that was an attempt to deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity, Rule 12.4.12 specifies that the punishment is downgraded to a yellow card, which is issued when the ball next goes out of play.
4. **Goalkeeper Handling Outside the Penalty Area.** There have been many examples of officials correctly ejecting goalkeepers for handling the ball outside the penalty area when such actions deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity. In situations where the initial contact by the goalkeeper's hand or arm is inside the penalty area, but their momentum subsequently causes them to carry the ball outside the penalty area and therefore commit a handling offense, DOGSO considerations should no longer apply. A direct free kick with

no misconduct is the appropriate punishment in this case.

5. **Video Review.** The play referenced in #4 above went to video review. Once the referee begins the review, they can evaluate the DOGSO decision in its entirety. In this case, there is not indisputable video evidence to overturn the handling aspect of the decision on the field, so the free kick should stand. The next step is to consider the DOGSO aspect of the decision. There is indisputable video evidence from the camera located along the penalty area line that the initial contact by the goalkeeper was legal, so the red card should be rescinded.