



NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations
2026 Season, Volume 2
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This update includes issues addressed up to September 4, 2026. Additional video examples can be found on the NCAA Soccer Center Circle Central Hub on RQ+ in the 2026 NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations Volume 2 document.

1. **Additional Clarification on Access to Video on the Bench.** In light of ongoing discussions with conferences that have specific contractual requirements and guidelines for video review, point c from the last memo (“2. Clarification on Access to Video on the Bench, 2026 NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations, Volume 1”) is now updated as follows (New text in bold):
 - If the platform being used for video review is a non-publicly available feed (i.e., DV Sport, Spiideo, Veo, or Vogo, etc.), **both teams should have equal access to the video that the referee will use to make decisions. This could mean that the replay feeds for the referee’s use will not be made available to either bench. This fits within the spirit of the policy, which is that one team does not get an unfair advantage in determining whether or not to challenge a decision.**
2. **Substitutions (Non-DI Men).** Once substitutes have checked in, they must enter at the next available opportunity, or else they are charged with an entry. Per Rule 3.8.7 “If the coach chooses not to have the substitute enter the field after they are beckoned by the referee, the substitute does not have to enter the game at that time, but they shall be charged with a substitution entry.” The practice of officials asking coaches if they wish to sub on a particular restart once the subs have checked in is contrary to the playing rules and must be discontinued.
3. **Video Review.** Officials must remember that the standard for changing a decision on the field is indisputable video evidence. There have been too many situations where the call on the field has been changed without sufficient evidence.
4. **Goal celebrations.** There are two areas to focus on here:
 - a. Players should not be running into the net to retrieve the ball after goals.
 - b. When substitutes enter the field to celebrate a goal and go beyond the immediate vicinity of the touchline, a caution must be issued to the head coach.
5. **Ejection Reports.** This continues to be an area of concern. There have been far too many reports that were not at the expected standard. Problem areas include:
 - a. Waiting more than 24 hours to submit the report. Some officials have explained that they completed their report on their phones, but the report did not go through. Referees receive a copy of the completed ejection report. If you did not receive an email with the ejection report, it has not been submitted successfully.
 - b. Incorrect information. Errors here include selecting the incorrect institution in the drop-down menu, mixing up which team the ejected individual is from, and including the wrong name on the report. The official name of the institution must be used when selecting the “Offending Institution.”
 - c. Incomplete information. If an ejection is the result of input from another member of the crew or occurs after video review, that fact should be included in the report.

6. **Teams Placing Cameras in the Goal.** While broadcasters may place cameras in or near the goal, teams may not place devices in the net or on the goal frame.
7. **Clock Manipulation.** Referees need to be aware of teams potentially gaining an unfair advantage from a clock stoppage for an injury. For example, Team A wins a free kick with less than a minute left. A player from Team A drops to the ground near midfield. Seeing that a stoppage was not forthcoming, the player (Team A) gets up, runs 40 yards to be in the penalty area and heads the subsequent corner kick. The player (Team A) then drops to the ground again with 10 seconds left. The referee should not stop the clock here as this is not a serious injury. Please note that if the attacking team has a substitution moment left, they can use it, which would result in a clock stoppage. Referees must be aware of potential gamesmanship and not reward it.