

**To:** OHSAA Soccer Officials

**From:** Don Muenz, Director of Soccer Officiating Development

**Re:** 2020 NFHS Rules Changes Explained

Good day everyone.

Here is a recap of our changes for 2020. Please read it over before you go out onto the pitch.

Have fun out there,

Don

## **2020 NFHS Rules Changes Explained**

**4.1.1(a)** Players' jerseys need ***not*** be tucked in before, during or after a match.

**4.2.7(e) and 4.2.7(f)** Tooth and mouth protectors can now be completely white or completely clear.

The vast majority of the remaining NFHS changes mirror those of the IFAB from 2018 and 2019, concerning dropped balls, when a free kick from within the penalty area is in play and the goalkeeper during the taking of a penalty.

Here we go.

### **Rule 9: Dropped Ball**

**9.1.1(b)** The ball is now out of play when: (1) it touches a match official and remains on the field of play AND where any one of these three occur: either team starts a promising attack, the ball goes directly into goal or possession changes.

2020 Comments on the Rules 9-1-1b – This change prevents situations where one team gains an advantage when the ball touches a referee and remains in play.

The restart will be a dropped ball. Locus and manner of the drop discussed below.

**9.2.1** "The game is restarted with a drop ball:

a. when the ball is caused to go out-of-bounds by two opponents simultaneously;

9.2.1 Situation C (2020): Player A2 kicks the ball forward and the ball is simultaneously played out-of-bounds by A3 and B3. The game will be restarted with a drop ball 5 yards from the boundary line where the ball was simultaneously touched, to a player of the team that last played the ball. RULING: Legal (9.2.1, 9.2.3). Play is restarted with a drop ball if simultaneously touched by opponents at the spot where the ball was touched. 9.2.2 Situation (2020): Player A2 kicks the ball forward and the ball is simultaneously played out-of-bounds by A3 and B3. What is the restart? RULING: A drop ball to a player from Team A shall be the restart. This drop ball shall be awarded 5 yards inside the field of play from the boundary line where it was simultaneously touched by A3 and B3.

b. when the ball becomes deflated; (2-2-4)

9.2.1 Situation B (2020): The ball becomes deflated. The referee stops play and restarts with a drop ball to the team that last played the ball at the spot where the ball was last played. RULING:

Legal. (9.3) (EXCEPTION for 14.1.7). [There is also an exception within the penalty area, see 9.2.3.]

c. following a temporary suspension of play for an injury or unusual situation; (except as noted in 14-1-7) and the goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball.

d. when simultaneous fouls of the same degree occur by opponents; or

9.2.1 Situation D (2020): Player A2 kicks the ball forward and the ball is simultaneously played by A3 and B3, both of whom commit simultaneous fouls. The referee restarts play with a drop ball at the spot of the fouls for a player of the team that last played the ball prior to the fouls being committed. RULING: Legal

(9.2.1, 9.2.3). The game will be restarted with a drop ball for simultaneous fouls at the spot where the ball struck the opponents.

e. when the ball touches an official as per 9-1-1b.

9.1.2 Situation A (2020): A pass by A2 to A3 strikes the referee (a) who is inbounds; or (b) who is straddling the touchline, the ball being inbounds; or (c) who is out of bounds. The pass in both (a) and (b) is controlled by B2. RULING: In (a) and (b), play is restarted for Team A with a drop ball where the ball struck the referee. In (c), the ball left the field of play before striking the referee and play is restarted as dictated by the rules. 9.1.2 Situation B (2020): An indirect free kick strikes an official while in the field of play and then (a) continues into the goal otherwise untouched; or (b) rebounds to a player who is onside and who then kicks it into the goal. RULING: In (a), restart with a goal kick. A goal cannot be scored after striking the referee and going into the goal without being touched by another player after touching the official. In (b), a restart with a drop ball should occur as a promising attack started after the referee was struck as per 9.2.3. 9.1.2 Situation C (2020): Player B2 takes a direct free kick. An official, while (a) in the penalty area or (b) on the field but not in the penalty area, is struck by the ball which rebounds into the opponent's goal. RULING: In (a), no goal. Play is restarted with a drop ball to the goalkeeper. In (b), no goal and play is restarted for Team B where the ball struck the referee. 9.2.3 Situation C (2020): Player A kicks the ball while in the penalty area. The ball deflects off the referee in the penalty area and (a) goes into the goal, (b) goes to A2's teammate who then scores a goal, (c) the ball goes to defender B2, (d) goes directly back to A2 at the spot where he/she kicked the ball or (e) deflects to a spot where A2 now has a scoring opportunity. RULING: In a, b, c and e play is restarted with a drop ball to the goalkeeper on Team B where the ball touched the referee. In (d), play continues as there was no change of possession, no goal scored and no development of a promising attack. 9.2.3 Situation D (2020): Attacking player A2 kicks the ball from either inside or outside his/her opponent's penalty area. The ball strikes the referee and deflects over the goal line and not into goal. The referee restarts play with a goal kick. RULING: The ball remained in play after striking the referee but did not change possession, a promising attack did not develop and the ball did not enter the goal. The ball crossed the goal line and the restart is a goal kick. (9.2.3) 9.2.3 Situation E (2020): Defender B2, either inside or outside his/her penalty area, kicks the ball and it hits the referee and the ball is deflected over the goal line and not into the goal. The referee restarts the play with a corner kick. RULING: The ball remained in play after striking the referee but did not change possession, a promising attack did not develop and the ball did not enter the goal. Restart is a corner kick (9.2.3)

**Rationale:** This proposal prevents an opponent from gaining an advantage.”

9.2.1(a) should be a very, very rare occurrence. The IFAB has no such provision.

9.2.1(b) should also be a very rare occurrence.

9.2.1(c) should be the most common occurrence, as this will encompass most player injury situations and weather stoppages, etc.

9.2.1(d) should also be a very rare occurrence.

9.2.1(e) should be a rare occurrence, second to 9.2.1(c).

### **9.2.3 How to Drop the Ball**

#### Dropped Ball Inside of Penalty Area:

If, when play was stopped, the ball was inside of the penalty area or the last touch, by either side, was inside of the penalty area, the ball will be dropped to the defending goalkeeper, with all players opposing the drop ball both outside of the penalty area and a minimum of four yards from the ball, until it is in play. Teammates of the defending goalkeeper may be inside of the penalty area, but must also be at least four yards from the ball until it is in play.

**REPEAT:** where the ball is dropped to the defending goalkeeper within his/her own defensive penalty area, ALL players must be at least four yards from the ball until it is in play. In addition, all players opposing the drop must also be outside of the penalty area until the ball is in play.

The defending goalkeeper may pick up the ball with the hands, as soon as it is in play. Directly from the drop, that goalkeeper may dribble the ball with the feet or play it with parts of the body other than the hands *and then* pick it up with the hands while still inside of that penalty area.

#### Dropped Ball Outside of Penalty Area:

The referee drops the ball to a player of the side which last played the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player(s), outside agent or match official.

In this case, ALL players must be at least four yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **Examples:**

**9.2.1 Situation A (2020):** The referee inadvertently sounds the whistle when the ball is (a) in the penalty area or (b) outside the penalty area. RULING: In (a), play is restarted with a dropped ball to the goalkeeper where the ball was when the whistle sounded and (b) play is restarted with a drop ball to the team which last played the ball at the spot where the ball was when the whistle sounded (9.2.3). **9.2.3 Situation A (2020):** The referee inadvertently sounds the whistle with the ball in the penalty area. To restart play, the referee drops the ball to the goalkeeper. RULING: Legal. **9.2.3 Situation C (2020):** Player A kicks the ball while in the penalty area. The ball deflects off the referee in the penalty area and (a) goes into the goal, (b) goes to A2's teammate who then scores a goal, (c) the ball goes to defender B2, (d) goes directly back to A2 at the spot where he/she kicked the ball or (e) deflects to a spot where A2 now has a scoring opportunity. RULING: In a, b, c and e play is restarted with a drop ball to the goalkeeper on Team B where the ball touched the referee. In (d), play continues as there was no change of possession, no goal scored and no development of a promising attack.

### **Rule 13: Free Kicks**

13.3.1 Where a free kick is awarded to the defending team, to be taken from within its defensive penalty area, all players opposing the kick must be outside of the penalty area and ten yards from the ball, until it is in play. Once the ball has been kicked and moved, players opposing the kick may enter the penalty area and contest for the ball. The team taking the kick may be within the penalty area and anyone on that team, except the player who took the kick, may next play the ball without its having to exit the penalty area.

**2020 Comments on the Rules 13.3.1** – This change will allow opposing players to enter the penalty area and play the ball once it has been put in play. The ball will no longer need to leave the penalty area before being touched by any player to be considered in play. **2020 Comments on the Rules 13.3.2** – This change affirms that the ball does not have to leave the penalty area to be in play, following a free kick.

**Example:** A direct free kick is awarded to the defenders two yards from the top of their defensive penalty area. All players opposing the kick must be outside of the penalty area and ten yards from the ball until it is kicked and moved. The ball need not exit the penalty area in order to be in play. Teammates of the kicker may be within the penalty area and may play the ball after it has been kicked and moved, without its having exited the penalty area.

#### **13.3.1 Walls**

Where 3 or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play. PENALTY: IFK to defending team.

#### **13.3.4 Referee's Signal for an IFK**

**"For indirect kicks, the referee shall signal an indirect kick (using Official NFHS Soccer Signals Rule 5-3-1b) by raising an arm above the head; this signal shall be maintained until the kick is taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play. If the referee fails to signal the kick is indirect and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal, the kick shall be retaken.**

**Rationale:** This clarifies the need to make the signal and prevents punishing the team taking the kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal."

**2020 Comments on the Rules 13-3-4** – This rule prevents punishing a team taking an indirect free kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal.

#### **14.1.3 Penalty Kick**

"The opposing goalkeeper shall stand with at least one foot on or in-line with the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts, and shall not be touching the goal posts, crossbar, or nets, until the ball is kicked. Lateral or forward movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line with both feet by stepping or lunging forward until the ball is in play.

**Rationale:** This clarifies the goalkeeper's position during the taking of a penalty kick."

**2020 Comments on the Rules 14-1-3** – This rule clarifies the goalkeeper's position during the taking of a penalty kick. This change allows the goalkeeper to make any movement desired, if one foot remains on or in-line with the goal line until the ball is kicked.

The referee should not permit a penalty to be taken until the goalkeeper has ceased having physical contact with the net, bar or post, and, where there has been such contact, the nets, post and bar have stopped moving.

If, after the whistle is given for a penalty to be kicked, the goalkeeper has contact with the post, bar or net OR the goalkeeper moves off of his/her goal line with both feet before the kick is taken, then, if the kick does not go into goal, the goalkeeper has infringed and the kick must be retaken.

### **Rule 16 Goal Kicks**

16.1.2: Players opposing the goal kick shall remain outside of the penalty area until the ball is in play.

16.1.3: The ball is in play when it has been kicked and moves.

16.1.4: After the ball has been kicked and moves, the ball may be played by any player except the one who executed the goal kick.

