

**To:** OHSAA Soccer Officials

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

**Re:** 2022 Soccer Officials Manual and Review of NFHS Rules Changes

**Date:** Friday, July 1, 2022

Good day, everyone.

We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer.

The season is fast approaching. Once the Fourth of July is past, it starts to shift into high gear.

Below is a link to the OHSAA Soccer Officials' Manual, posted on our website.

**Link:**

[https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/dod/Soccer/2022OHSAA\\_SoccerOFFICIALSManual.pdf](https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/dod/Soccer/2022OHSAA_SoccerOFFICIALSManual.pdf)

The Manual contains a wealth of information: 2022 rules changes, editorial changes, play rulings, points of emphasis, referee uniform requirements, how to upgrade to Class 1, bad weather procedure, heat index procedure, concussion information, etc. Please download it to your device and give it a look-through.

Below is an excerpt from the Manual, reviewing the 2022-23 NFHS Rules Changes and Points of Emphasis.

Be well,

Don

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### **2022-2023 NFHS RULES CHANGES EXPLAINED**

By Don Muenz, Director of Soccer Officiating Development

Good day, everyone.

Following is a summary of rules and editorial changes for the upcoming season along with Comments on the Rules and Points of Emphasis.

**THE 2022-23 NFHS RULES CHANGES, COMMENTS ON THE RULES AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS.**



## 2022-2023 NHFS Rules Changes

There was only one substantive change to rule 4.1.1(a) The entire rule was reorganized, as follows, to place the main uniform requirements in one spot.

**4.1.1(a) was amended to permit the wearing of cutoff socks.**

**4.1.1** "... . With the exception of socks, equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn. ... ." Socks may be cut down, i.e., the foot portion may be cut off. **4.1.1 SITUATION R:** "A1 is observed by the referee to be wearing socks that have been modified by cutting off the foot of the sock. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Any visible material worn under the sock and above the ankle must be of a similar color to the predominant color of the sock."

**4.1.1(a)** The required player equipment includes a jersey, shorts, socks, suitable shoes and shinguards. **With the exception of socks,** equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn. It is also recommended that male players wear a supporter and protective cup.

Requirements for uniforms:

(a) The shinguards shall provide adequate and reasonable protection, be professionally manufactured, age and size-appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, worn under the socks, and worn with the bottom edge no higher than 2 inches above the ankle (see illustrations regarding shinguards). Shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) standards at the time of manufacture. The NOCSAE seal and height range shall be permanently marked on the front of the shinguard.

(b) The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys, and the home team shall wear dark jerseys (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white).

(c) Both socks shall be the same color, with the visiting team wearing solid white socks and the home team wearing socks of a single dominant color, but not necessarily the color of the jersey. If tape or a similar material (stays/straps) is applied externally to the socks, it must be of similar color as that part of the sock to which it is applied.

**Rationale (for 2022 amendments):** A reorganization of the uniform rule to assist with easier flow and understanding.

**4.2.2** Hair devices may be worn to control the hair. Hair adornments may be worn and must be secured to the head so as not to present a safety hazard to the player, teammates or opponents.

**Amended in RRC:** Hair control devices and other adornments in the hair that are securely fastened to the head and do not present a risk of injury to the player, teammates or opponents are allowed.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that hair adornments can be worn if they do not endanger other players as well as being more inclusive of participants' cultural and religious beliefs.

**NF Soccer Rules Changes-2022-23:** The change clarifies that hair adornments, such as beads, may be worn in the hair if they are secured to the head and do not present a risk of injury to the player, teammates or opponents.

Rationale: Clarifies that hair adornments can be worn if they do not endanger other players as well as being more inclusive of participants' cultural and religious beliefs.

**2022 NFHS Press Release on Rules Changes:** Hair adornments, including beads, may be worn by high school soccer players beginning next fall, provided they are secured in a bun and do not present a safety hazard to the player, teammates or opponents.

This change to Rule 4-2-2 of the NFHS Soccer Rules Book was recommended by the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee at its February 6-8 meeting in Indianapolis. This change and five other rules revisions were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The allowance of hair adornments and specifically beads is an attempt to be more inclusive of participants' cultural and religious beliefs.

"The Soccer Rules Committee wants to support diversity and ensure that all competitors are welcomed in the sport of soccer while maintaining safety in the sport," said Julie Cochran, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee. "The committee felt it was important to create rules language that supported diversity of hair trends while minimizing the risk of injury to the athlete, teammates and opponents."

From the **2022-23 Preseason Guide: Play 1:** "A1 has long hair that extends down the back. At the end of A1's hair are beads (PlayPic A). The referee rules the beads are dangerous and instructs Team A's coach that A1 cannot participate with the beads until they are secured to the head. **Ruling 1:** The referee's ruling is correct. **Comment:** Hair control devices are legal providing the official deems the device does not present a safety hazard. Securing the beads to the head would bring the player in compliance (PlayPic B and C)."

Rule Change

**OTHER EQUIPMENT**  
**4-2-2**



Illegal



Legal



Legal

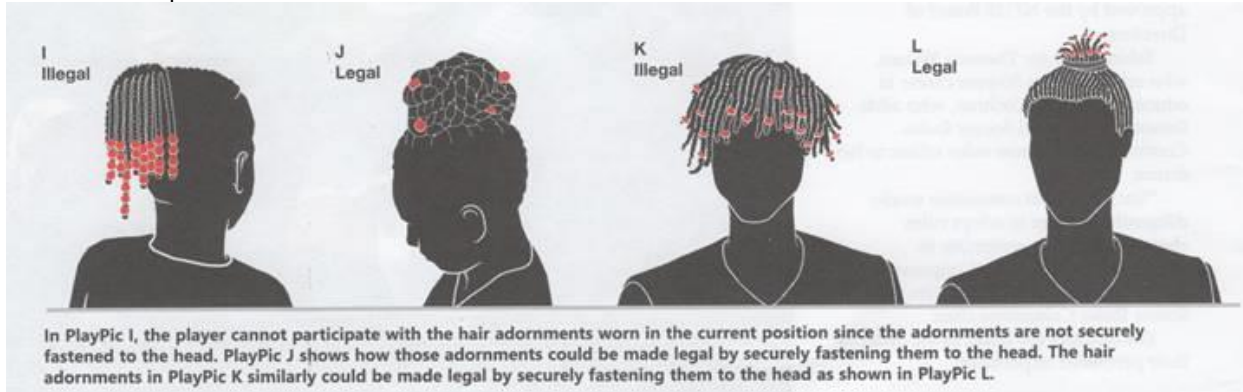
- In PlayPic A, the player cannot participate with the hair adornments worn in the current position since the adornments are not securely fastened to the head. Play Pics B and C are options to make legal.



**Play 2:** “A1 has long hair tied in a bun. In A1’s hair are (a) bobby pins (PlayPic D), (b) hair beads (PlayPic G), (c) barrettes, or (d) a claw hair clip (PlayPic H). The referee rules the hair adornments are dangerous and instructs Team A’s coach that A1 cannot participate with the hair adornments in their current state. **Ruling 2:** The referee’s ruling is incorrect in (a), (b) and (c). These hair adornments/control devices are permitted as long as they are securely fastened to the head. The referee’s ruling is correct in (d). Any hair control device/adornments that extend and protrude from the hair are not permissible.”



Further examples:



**4.2.2 SITUATION A:** “During team warmups, the officials notice a player on Team A wearing plastic beads at the end of long braids. The braids are (a) pulled back and secured in a bun with an elastic hair band; (b) free flowing, allowing the braids to sway back and forth as the player moves. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) illegal. **COMMENT:** Hair control devices and other adornments in the hair that are securely fastened to the head and do not present a risk of injury to the player, teammates or opponents are to be permitted. In (b), the official shall notify the coach of Team A and allow the player to make the equipment legal by securing the beads to minimize risk of injury.”

**4.2.2 SITUATION B:** “The referee observes player (a) A1 wearing beads in the hair that are wrapped into a bun and secured to the head; (b) A2 wearing beads on the end of an unsecured pony tail; (c) A3 wearing commemorative ribbons in the hair; (d) A4 wearing a feather woven into the hair. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (c) and (d) so long as the adornments are secured to the head so as to not create a safety hazard to the player, teammates or opponents. Illegal in (b) because the hard adornments are not secured to the head.”

**7.1.3** In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played unless otherwise set forth by state association adoption. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start, or restarted from the suspension of play, according to state association adoption. (18.1.1(qq))

**Rationale (for 2022 amendment permitting state association adoption for a match with one half or more played):** This allows states that may require the game to be played in its entirety (for post-season or regular season

seeding play), to do so without a conflict with the current rule. This would also be consistent with many other NFHS Playing Rules in other sports.4.1.1(a)

**2022 NFHS Rules Changes Press Release:** Rule 7-1-3 now states that a suspended game should be considered an official game if one complete half or more has been played unless otherwise set forth by state association adoption.

**NOTE:** I checked with the OHSAA Office and they do NOT intend to promulgate a state association adoption. Therefore, the rule stands as we have always interpreted it.

**10.1.2** A goal MAY be scored directly from a:

**10.1.2(f)** goalkeeper's punt or drop-kick.

**Rationale (for 2022 amendment):** Defined the outcomes on a goalkeeper's throw when throwing the ball directly or own goal.

**2022 NFHS Rules Changes Press Release:** Rule 10 was revised to state that a goal cannot be scored directly from a goalkeeper's throw into the opponent's goal.

**10.1.1 SITUATION:** The goalkeeper, while holding the ball within the goalkeeper's own penalty area, (a) throws the ball into the opponent's goal or (b) throws or drops the ball into the goalkeeper's own goal. **RULING:** In (a), no goal is awarded and play is restarted with a goal kick. In (b), a goal is awarded to the opposing team and play is restarted with a kickoff for the goalkeeper's team."

**10.1.3** A goal MAY NOT be scored during play directly from a/an:

**10.1.3(h)** goalkeeper's throw into the opponent's goal.

**Rationale (for 2022 amendment):** Defined the outcomes on a goalkeeper's throw when throwing the ball directly or own goal.

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**11.1.1 NOTE:** "The position of any part of the player's head, body or feet will be the deciding factor, not the player's arms below the bottom of the armpit."

**12.2** A player shall be penalized for deliberately handling, carrying, striking, or propelling the ball with a hand or arm. For the purposes of determining handling offenses, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit. **EXCEPTION:** Goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area. (12.7.1)

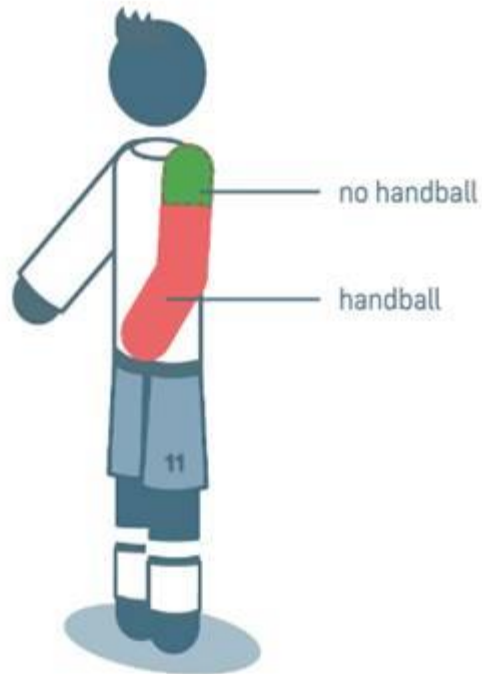
**18.1.1(s)** "HAND/ARM – The upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit."

**2022 NFHS Rules Changes Press Release:** A revision to Rule 12-2 further defines the arm when determining handling offenses. A player is penalized for handling when carrying, striking or propelling the ball with a hand or arm, which is now further defined by the upper boundary of the arm in line with the armpit.

"The rules committee has received several inquiries regarding handling," said Stan Latta, chair of the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee. "In an effort to define what parts of the arm/hand are considered in determining handling, wording

was approved to describe the specific areas of the arm/hand that should be considered when determining a handling violation."

This diagram is an accurate depiction of the hand/arm for both IFAB and NFHS:



**14.1 PENALTY (ARTICLES 2,3 and 4):** Infringement by the defending team is not penalized if the goal is scored. If a goal is not scored on the penalty kick, it is retaken. If there is an encroachment by the attacking team and the ball enters the goal, the goal does not count and the kick shall be retaken. If there is an infringement by the attacking team and the ball does not go into the goal there is no rekick. If the ball rebounds into play or is deflected out of bounds by the goalkeeper, the game shall be stopped and restarted with an indirect free kick for the defending team at the location of the encroachment. If the ball is saved and held by the goalkeeper, play shall continue. In cases where players from both teams are guilty of infringements, the kick shall be retaken regardless of the outcome of the kick. If the ball is not kicked forward, an indirect free kick shall immediately be awarded to the defending team from the penalty mark.

**Rationale (for 2022 amendment):** Penalizes the kicking team for not kicking the ball forward on penalty kick.

**2022 NFHS Rules Changes Press Release:** Rule 14-1 Penalty describes the process for a penalty kick and was amended to add clarification that the kick must be kicked forward, toward the goal. If a penalty kick is not kicked forward, an indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team.

**17.1.2** Players of the defending team shall be at least 10 yards from the corner arc until the ball has been kicked.

**Rationale (for 2022 change):** Clarifies the proper distance for the opposing team on a corner kick.

**2022 NFHS Rules Changes Press Release:** Regarding corner kicks, Rule 17-1-2 clarifies that the defending team shall be 10 yards from the corner arc until the ball is kicked and the corner kick shall be kicked from the ground within the corner arc.

## **2022-2023 NFHS EDITORIAL CHANGES**

**3.3.2(d)** “Time for Substitutions: either team may substitute an unlimited number of players, provided the players have checked in per 3-4-1d: (d) when a player is required to leave the field because of improper equipment or communicable disease concerns: “

### **11.1.4(b)**

**ART. 4 . . .** Player is offside and penalized if, at the time the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player in an offside position becomes involved in active play by:

- a. interfering with play or with an opponent; or
- b. seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.

**Rationale:** This change conforms with the international standard and wording. Furthermore it matches the wording of Rule **18.1.p** – GAINING AN ADVANTAGE BY BEING IN THAT POSITION. (p 75)

**Note:** there was a second rules change, deemed “editorial” by the NFHS. I have included it as a substantive change, because it now permits the wearing of cutoff socks. See, NF 4.1.1(b), above.

## **Soccer Comments on the Rules - 2022-2023**

**NOTE:** At the time of this writing, no Comments had been promulgated by the NFHS.

## **Soccer Points of Emphasis - 2022-2023**

### **Sportsmanship**

Good sporting behavior is one of the fundamental ingredients to the continued success and enjoyment of education-based high school sports and activities. In fact, in the 103-year history of organized high school sports in the United States, good sportsmanship has been one of the most important outcomes of high school activity programs.

NFHS playing rules are written to encourage sportsmanship. Participation in these programs should promote respect, integrity and sportsmanship. However, for these ideals to occur, everyone involved in these programs must be doing their part.

The NFHS is concerned that unsporting behavior in education-based athletics has increased across all sports. As a result, the NFHS has made sportsmanship the No. 1 Point of Emphasis for the 2022-23 school year.

Sportsmanship, or good sporting behavior, is about treating one another with respect and exhibiting appropriate behavior. It is about being fair, honest and caring. When these types of appropriate behavior occur, competitive play is more enjoyable for everyone.

Coaches set the tone at athletic contests with their display of sportsmanship. If these individuals act in a sportsmanlike manner, their behavior sets the tone for players, spectators and others. If coaches, however, are complaining constantly about the decision of contest officials, spectators are more likely to do the same.

There must be a collaborative, working relationship between contest officials and game administration to promote good sportsmanship and safely conduct the contest. Everyone has their roles to play in creating a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at contests.

Officials should focus on the actions of players, coaches and other bench/sideline personnel. A positive, open line of communication between officials and coaches ultimately results in a better contest for everyone involved.

Contest officials, however, should never engage with spectators who are exhibiting unsporting behavior. Once the contest begins, school administration is responsible for dealing with unruly spectators. A proactive approach by school administration includes monitoring the behavior of spectators and intervening as needed.

If spectators are using demeaning or profane language at officials – or at others in the stands – those individuals should be removed from the contest by school administration.

In recent years, a heightened level of unsportsmanlike behavior has been occurring by spectators at high school sporting events, and it must be stopped. The use of demeaning language, or hate speech, by students, parents and other fans must cease.



High school sports and other activities exist to lift people up, not demean or tear people down. The goal is to treat everyone fairly and treat each other with respect. Any speech or harassment that is insulting, demeaning or hurtful will not be tolerated.

High schools must establish a culture that values the worth of every single person – both players on the school's team and players on the opposing team. There must be a no-tolerance policy regarding behavior that shows disrespect for another individual.

Good sports win with humility, lose with grace and do both with dignity. It takes the efforts of everyone every day to ensure that sportsmanship remains one of the top priorities in education-based activity programs.

### **Strategic Time-Wasting Techniques**

To ensure fair and equitable play, officials must be aware of potentially illegal time-wasting techniques which may be used to waste time or gain an unfair advantage. Some examples to consider:

- Goalkeepers holding the ball for longer than 6 seconds before releasing the ball into play
  - Once the ball has been placed for a free kick moving the ball to a different location
  - Delaying the restart on free kicks or throw ins. Players may take unnecessary time to set up a free kick or throw in by stopping to re-tie their shoe or adjust their shin guard or uniform.
- o Changing kickers late in the game when taking free kicks or corner kicks
  - o Changing players late in the game to take the throw in
    - Substituting at every opportunity late in the game (before the 5-minute rule applies). Officials should use their best judgement and know their available options, including issue a verbal warning, stop the clock, and/or issue a caution to deal with these techniques. Recognizing and immediately dealing with these tactics will ensure fair play.

### **Penalty Kick**

The player taking the penalty kick is permitted to use a stutter step or a hesitation move provided they do not stop their approach to the ball and there is a continuous movement toward the ball. To be in play, the ball must be kicked forward. If the ball is not kicked forward the penalty shall be an Indirect Free Kick awarded to the defending team from the penalty mark. Infractions by either team are covered by the chart on page 70 of the rule book.

### **Dissent**

RULE 12-8-1c states that objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official is dissent. However, simply disagreeing with an official's decision isn't always dissent and/or sanctioned by a yellow card. There are several factors to consider in each situation. Referees should evaluate potential dissent by asking if the display is public, personal, or provocative. Expressions of frustration or disappointment or private dissatisfaction not directed at anyone can usually be handled by a verbal warning or private discussion with the player. Continual public complaining, prolonged and repeated actions, or personally directed comments towards the referee of their decision must be dealt with and should be cautioned. Beyond dissent gestures or language that are inappropriate, foul and abuse directed at an opponent, teammate or official, threaten physical harm, and/or taunting must be dealt with immediately and result in a disqualification to that player. These same considerations should be considered when dealing with coaches or any other individuals in the team area.

