

To: OHSAA Soccer Officials
From: Don Muenz, Former Director of Officiating Development- Soccer
Subject: SOC Interpretation
Date: Monday, July 17, 2023

Good day, everyone.

A clarification is needed for the application of new NF 12.3.2 and NF 12.3.3.

Let's start with those rules.

NF 12.3.2 A player shall be penalized for handling if they score in the opponent's goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper.

NF 12.3.3 A player shall be penalized for handling if they score in the opponent's goal immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental.

Principles

1.) If a player accidentally or deliberately handles and the ball goes directly into goal, the goal does not count and a direct free kick is awarded to the opponent from the spot of the foul. NF 12.3.2.

2.) If a player accidentally or deliberately handles and then scores immediately, the goal does not count and a direct free kick is awarded to the opponent from the spot of the foul. NF 12.3.3.

3.) If a player accidentally handles the ball, which goes to a teammate who scores, THE GOAL COUNTS. NF 12.3.2 and NF 12.3.3 do not apply to this situation.

4.) Under NF 12.3.2 and NF 12.3.3, whether the handling be accidental or deliberate DOES NOT MATTER. The goal does not count and a direct free kick is awarded to the opponent.