To: OHSAA Soccer Officials

From: Don Muenz, Director of Officiating Development – Soccer

Re: Weekly Update

Well, it is time again for my weekly opportunity to chew on your whistle. In this installment, I will change course and chew on your cards.

1.) It appears that some who call a penalty kick and then caution a player, refuse to permit the offender to reenter the match when the penalty results in a goal or the ball goes out of play. NF 3.3.3(b)(2) tells us that “The cautioned player may not reenter the game until the next legal opportunity for his/her team.” If a goal is scored, either team may substitute an unlimited number of players from the bench, provided that they report in and are beckoned on by a referee, NF 3.3.2. Further, if the ball goes out of play to a goal kick, either team may substitute, provided that the subs have checked in prior to the ball’s leaving the field of play and are beckoned on by a referee, NF 3.3.3(a). If the ball goes to a corner kick, the offender may reenter at that time, provided that the offender has checked in prior to the ball’s leaving the field and the attacking team has at least one substitute who has also done so. Those players must also be beckoned on by a referee. There is absolutely no requirement within Rule 3, that “time has run off of the clock,” before a cautioned player may reenter.

2.) When a coach threatens to give you a bad rating because of your call/non-call, this is insulting, offensive or abusive language, and the coach should be shown the straight red card, NF 12.8.2(f). Think about it. You are actually being extorted, “Ref, give me what I want or it will go very badly with you on my ratings.” Let’s look at this. If you give in to the coach, you will fail your own personal moment of truth. You will fail the game. You will fail your referee team. You will, doubtlessly, still receive a poor rating from that same coach and you will, deservedly, receive a poor rating from the other coach. What upside is there for you by giving in?

3.) Let’s clear up what appears to be a misunderstanding about taunting and striking/violent conduct. Should a player taunt anyone, that is a straight red card ejection, NF 12.8.2(b). Taunting is defined in NF 12.8.2(b) NOTE: “The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender national origin.” Taunting is not unsporting conduct, NF 12.8.1. It is not a cautionable offense, NF 12.8.2(a). Do not fail your moment of truth here.

Should a player attempt to strike another person, e.g., using a closed fist or an open-handed slap, this is an ejection offense, even if there is no contact, NF 12.1.1 and NF 12.8.2(a). The same holds true if there is an attempt to deliberately kick another person, NF 12.1.1 and NF 12.8.2(a). Neither of these are mere, cautionable offenses. You have a duty to the match, to its participants, to your fellow-referees and to the educational process to eject anyone who strikes or attempts to strike or kicks or attempts to kick.

Read NF 12.8.1. Read NF 12.8.2. Read NF 18.1.1(uu). Know the difference between cautionable misconduct and ejectionable misconduct. Unless you know, you are not refereeing—you are guessing.

Season’s Almost Gone Quiz

1.) Serious foul play need not necessarily involve the use of disproportionate and unnecessary force.
A.) True
B.) False

2.) During the interval between the second overtime and kicks from the penalty mark, the Touchline Official must verify each team’s list of five kickers against each team’s roster.
A.) True
B.) False

3.) A rule of thumb for whether advantage has been realized is
A.) a goal is scored by the offended team.
B.) the offended team maintains advantageous possession or is able to get off a pass or shot free from the effects of the foul.
C.) A or B

4.) F-3 takes a shot which whistles just over the crossbar to a goal kick. F-3 looks up and says, “Aw, Shtick!” The referee
A.) cautions F-3 for incidental vulgar or profane language.
B.) ejects F-3 for insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture.
C.) ignores the remark.

5.) The advantage belongs not to the offended player, but to the offended player’s team.
A.) True
B.) False

6.) Only the player fouled is permitted to take a penalty kick.
A.) True
B.) False

7.) A deliberate save for offside purposes
A.) may be made by the goalkeeper.
B.) may be made by a defending field player.
C.) may occur on any ball going into or close to goal.
D.) All of the above.
E.) A and C

8.) In executing a scissors-kick, H-2's foot comes dangerously close to H-1’s jaw.
A.) Play continues, because they are teammates.
B.) IFK to Team H’s opponents for the dangerous play.

9.) Goalkeeper, S-1, and fullback, S-8, both leave the field of play beyond their defensive goal line in an attempt to play the ball. S-1 recovers her line, but, S-8 does not. T-10 has only S-1 to beat when the ball is passed to her by T-2. T-10 scores.
A.) T-10 is offside.
B.) The goal counts, as S-8 is treated as being on the field at the point where she departed it to play the ball, i.e., her defensive goal line.

10.) A-10 is an attacker within a wall just outside of her attacking penalty area. A-10’s feet are slightly closer to the goal line than the second-last opponent, who is also in the wall. The shot is taken and A-10’s mere presence in the wall prevents B-5 from playing for the ball. The ball goes through the “hole” in the wall when A-10 falls forward. The ball enters the goal directly from the DFK.
A.) A-10 is offside.
B.) The goal counts.

11.) Goalkeeper, D-11, has made a save near the left post. The ball squirts to the right post, where D-7, seeing E-5 about to kick the ball into goal, falls on the ball and covers it with her body, without touching it with her hands. There is no other Team D player who can effectively defend, between the ball and the goal.
A.) The referee whistles for dangerous play.
B.) D-7 sees red for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.
C.) The restart is an IFK, subject to the conditions of NF 13.1.4.
D.) D-7 is cautioned.
E.) A penalty kick is awarded for serious foul play.
F.) A, B and C
G.) D and E
12.) Goalkeeper, F-11, is laying on the ground within his defensive goal area. F-11 is five feet from the ball. F-11 fears that F-5's attempted clearance will result in an own-goal. F-11 touches the attempted clearance with her hands, deflecting the ball around the goalpost to a corner kick.
A.) F-11 is disqualified for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.
B.) The restart is a penalty kick.
C.) The restart is an IFK, subject to the conditions of NF 13.1.4.
D.) The goalkeeper is cautioned for unsporting conduct: a deliberate tactical foul.
E.) A and B
F.) C and D

13.) The following are examples of violent conduct by a player:
A.) pulling a teammate down by her hair.
B.) throwing a punch at a teammate without making contact.
C.) deliberately kicking the opposing coach.
D.) deliberately elbowing the player’s own trainer in the face.
E.) stomping on an opponent who is lying on the ground.
F.) forcefully using the hands to shove an opponent to the ground.
G.) deliberately and with force attempting to kick an opponent who has just stolen the ball from the offender.
H.) deliberately and violently kicking over the team’s water cooler.
I.) A through H
J.) A through G

14.) A player standing outside of the field of play may legally dribble the ball around the entire perimeter of the field.
A.) True
B.) False

15.) A-5 and B-4 have fallen to the ground with the ball between them and at their feet. There is no one else around. They may legally attempt to play the ball while lying on the ground.
A.) True
B.) False

16.) The ball lies at a corner kick for Team A. After Team A has completed their substitutions and the referee has given the whistle for the corner to be taken, but before the ball is kicked, defender, B-9, punches A-5. A-5 is standing within her attacking penalty area at the time, but B-9 is standing outside of her defending penalty area.
A.) B-9 is shown a red card for serious foul play.
B.) B-9 is shown a red card for violent conduct.
C.) The restart is a penalty kick for Team A.
D.) B-9 is cautioned for unsporting conduct.
E.) The restart is a corner kick for Team A.
F.) A and C
G.) B and C
H.) B and E

17.) In the jv match, i.e., first match, of a jv-varsity doubleheader, G-2 receives a caution in the first half for dissent. With two minutes remaining in the jv match, G-2 is cautioned for a reckless foul.
A.) Team G plays shorthanded for the rest of the jv match.
B.) G-2 may not participate in the varsity match.
C.) The referee must file a Game Report.
D.) A and C
E.) G-2 will be suspended from all soccer matches at any level until two jv matches are played by her team.
F.) B, C and E
18.) Under NFHS Rules, any foul involving contact is a DFK foul.
A.) True
B.) False

19.) A defender must always give ten yards on an opposing team’s FK.
A.) True
B.) False

20.) Player, A-1, spits at an assistant referee. The restart is:
A.) DFK to Team B from the spot of the foul.
B.) IFK to Team B from the spot of the foul.
C.) IFK to Team B from the spot of the foul.
D.) IFK to Team B from the spot of the ball

21.) The kicker of a penalty kick makes a legal runup to the ball. He then stops, fakes the goalkeeper to
the ground and misses the kick.
A.) If there are no infringements by the defending team, IFK to the defending team from the penalty mark.
B.) The kicker may be cautioned for unsporting conduct: delay.
C.) A and B
D.) Regardless of the result of the kick, IFK to the defenders, from the penalty mark.
E.) Regardless of any infringement by the defenders, IFK to the defenders from the penalty mark.
F.) Regardless of the result of the penalty kick, retake the kick.

22.) The sole function of the penalty arc is to ensure that the taker of a penalty kick is afforded ten yards.
A.) True
B.) False

23.) B-1 runs full speed from six yards away at A-5, who has jumped to head a ball. B-1 turns his
shoulder into A-5, who has just headed the ball away. B-1 extends his elbow above the shoulder and into
A-5, making forceful contact with the head and neck area of A-5, and knocking him down. A-5 pops right
up, apparently uninjured. The referee:
A.) calls B-1 for jumping in and cautions him for a reckless foul.
B.) calls B-1 for jumping in.
C.) calls B-1 for striking and cautions B-1 for a reckless foul.
D.) calls B-1 for striking and issues a straight red card for violent conduct.

24.) In kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a state final, the winner of the coin toss
may choose to kick first or second.
A.) True
B.) False

25.) Serious foul play may be an IFK offense.
A.) True
B.) False

Annotated Answer Key
1.) A NF 12.8.2(d)(2); NF 12.8.2(d)(3); NF 12.8.2(d)(4)
2.) A 2019 OHSAA Tournament Reg. (hereinafter, TR) VII(C)(13); TR IX(D)(4).
3.) B The reason for the answer is to emphasize that every advantage does not necessarily result in a
goal. That no goal has resulted does not negate the advantage having been realized.
4.) A NF 12.8.1(d); NF 12.8.1(d) NOTE. Ohio has not adopted the NOTE. For language to result in a
straight red card ejection, it must be insulting, offensive or abuse AND be directed at a person other than
the speaker.
5.) A NF 5.3.1(d) Study the language of the rule.
6.) B NF 14
7.) D NF 11.1.4; NF 11.1.4 Situation B; NF 11.1.4 Situation C
8.) B NF 12.6
9.) B NF 11.1.2 Situation A
10.) A NF 11.1.4(a), interfering with an opponent
11.) F NF 12.8.2(d)(4); NF 12.8.1(f)(15). Here is a short refresher on The Four Ds from last year.

2018 NFHS Preseason Guide:

Misconduct [12.8.1(f)(15); 12.8.2(d)(3); 12.8.2(d)(4)]

A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for unsporting conduct. This includes a player who commits an offense against an opponent within his/her team penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, if the offense was an attempt to play the ball.

A player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for committing serious foul play. This includes when a player commits a foul, outside the penalty area, attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, and the goal is not scored. This also applies when a player commits a foul, inside the penalty area, while not attempting to play the ball, and the goal is not scored.

The change addresses issues of denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) that occur in the game that places a player and team in double jeopardy when applying a penalty.

**Play 10:** Player B1, while attempting to play the ball, trips attacking player A1 in the penalty area. **RULING:** Because B1 denied an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the referee awards the opponents a penalty kick and issues a caution to B1.

**Play 11:** Player B1, with no attempt to play the ball, trips the attacking player A1 outside the penalty area. **RULING:** Because B1 denied A1 an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the referee awards the opponents a penalty kick and issues a red card to B1.

**Point of Emphasis: Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity**

The penalty associated with a player who denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity has been amended. In an effort to make the penalty better fit the infraction, now when a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offense was an attempt to play the ball. Formerly, this player was disqualified and penalty kick was awarded. In circumstances where there was no attempt to play the ball, the player is still disqualified.

In evaluating whether there has been an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, officials are encouraged to consider the following:

a. Distance between the offense and the goal (the offense must be near the goal)

b. General direction of play (the attacking players are generally headed toward the goal)

c. Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball (the player must have or be able to get control of the ball in order to score)
d. Location and number of defenders (not more than one defender between the attacking player and the goal, not counting the player that committed the foul and the defenders must be able to challenge the attacking player)

If any of the above considerations are missing, it is not an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

2018 Comments on the Rules 12.8.2(d)(3) – If a defender attempts to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity outside the penalty area, the defender shall be disqualified (red card) and a direct free kick shall be awarded at the spot of the foul.

Points of Emphasis 2018: Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity: The penalty associated with a player who denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity has been amended. In an effort to make the penalty better fit the infraction, now when a player commits an offense against an opponent within his/her own penalty area which denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offense was an attempt to play the ball. Formerly, this player was disqualified and penalty kick was awarded. In circumstances where there was no attempt to play the ball, the player is still disqualified.

In evaluating whether there has been an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, officials are encouraged to consider the following:

1. Distance between the offense and the goal (the offense must be near the goal).
2. General direction of play (the attacking players are generally headed toward the goal).
3. Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball (the player must have or be able to get control of the ball in order to score).
4. Location and number of defenders (not more than one defender between the attacking player and the goal, not counting the player who committed the foul and the defenders must be able to challenge the attacking player).

If any of the above considerations are missing, it is not an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

12.) C NF 12.8.2(d)(2); NF 12.2 EXCEPTION; NF 12.7.3; NF 12.8.1(f)(13). Reading these rules together indicates that an IFK foul may be given the goalkeeper for violation of NF 12.7.3, but there can be no red or yellow card issued, based upon NF 12.2 EXCEPTION; NF 12.8.2(d)(2) and NF 12.8.1(f)(13).

13.) J NF 18.1.1(uu); NF 12.8.2(a); NF 12.8.2(d)

14.) A NF 9.1.1; NF 9.1.1(e)

15.) A NF 12.6

16.) H NF 18.1.1(e); NF 12.8.2(a); NF 18.1.1(uu)


Disqualification or Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

3.1) Players and Bench Personnel: A soccer player or bench personnel is considered “disqualified” upon receiving a subsequent caution, or “double yellow” (NF Rule 12-8-2(b)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest with no further penalties. The player is to remain with the team for the remainder of the contest.

A soccer player or bench personnel is considered “ejected” upon receiving a straight Red Card (NF Rule 12-8-3) and shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in soccer until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. The player is to remain with the team under the jurisdiction of the head coach for the remainder of the contest.

See the remainder of Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

18.) B NF 12.5 IFK results even with contact.

19.) B NF 13.3.1 For example:
Opponents must retire 10 yards with one exception: if they are between goalposts *and* on the goal line.

20.) B  NF 13.2.2(m)
21.) C  NF 14.1.1; NF 14.1.1 PENALTY
22.) A  NF 1.2.8
23.) D  NF 12.1.1; NF 12.8.2(a); NF 18.1.1(uu)
24.) A  TR IX(D)(3); NF 5.2.2(d)(3)
25.) A  NF 12.8.2(d)(3); NF 12.8.2(d)(4)