



## **2025-26 SOCCER STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS**

### **1. Players wearing Caps:**

Soft and yielding caps during inclement weather. Caps must be alike in color.

### **2. Players using tape/Velcro to secure game socks:**

If anything (ex: tape or Velcro) is worn on the outside of the sock, it must be clear or similar in color of the socks.

### **3. Officials' pre-game meeting with ball runners:**

1. Meeting occurs prior to each game.
2. Runners should be at least of Junior High age, or if younger, supervised by adults.
3. Be consistent, be active, and pay attention.
4. Keep up with play.
5. Avoid coaching or cheering for your team; remain impartial.
6. Hand the ball to the player or place it on the ground, then retrieve the other ball.

### **4. Official's Jurisdiction:**

Once an official arrives and enters the competition site, their jurisdiction begins. Since officials are on the field during warmups, their jurisdiction begins at that point, not solely 15 minutes prior to the game.

### **5. Pre-Game Protocol:**

During regular season contests, when the warm-up clock runs to 0:00 (10 minutes before the posted start time), officials, coaches, and players meet for the equipment check, sportsmanship talk, and coin flip.

If an announcer is present, introductions begin. If no announcer, the game begins immediately.

Following this protocol will allow athletes to warm up uninterrupted in preparation for the game.

### **6. Regular Season and State Series Contests:**

In the event a game is suspended due to conditions that make it impossible to play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played.

If less than one half of the game has been played, the game may be continued from the point of interruption to the next available playing time, i.e., a delay may be called, or a game suspended until rescheduled.

### **7. Class 1A/2A/3A Super-Sectionals Only:**

In the event a game is suspended due to conditions that make it impossible to play, the game will be rescheduled for the next day from the point of suspension. Or if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches, the game may be considered final. If the game cannot be played or completed by the end of Wednesday night for Class 1A and Thursday night for Class 2A/3A, prior to the State Semifinals, the team with the lead will be declared the winner. If the teams are tied and the game cannot be completed on Wednesday or Thursday, then a coin toss shall determine which team will qualify for the State Finals.

## **8. Individual Card Count – Coach and Player**

All Cautions are counted toward a coach or player individual limitation.

Each Straight Red Card is counted as 2 yellows towards an individual's card count total.

- A. When a coach or player accumulates 5 cards during the season, that person is suspended for the next game.
- B. If a coach or player accumulates 3 additional cards (for a total of 8), that person is suspended for the next two games.
- C. If a coach or player accumulates 3 additional cards (for a total of 11), that person is suspended for the next three games
- D. If a coach or player accumulates 3 additional cards (for a total of 14), that person is suspended for the next four games, etc. These are minimum penalties.
- E. At the start of the IHSA tournament series, a coach or player will begin the tournament with a clean slate if they have accumulated 4 or fewer cards during the regular season.
- F. If a coach or player enters the tournament series having accumulated 5 or more yellow cards during the season, their card count continues through the duration of the state series.

### **Notes:**

- 1. Once the game restarts, cards cannot be rescinded after being issued; therefore, all yellow and red cards MUST be reported to the school and the IHSA.
- 2. Schools or coaches who do not receive a special report electronically or by fax within 48 hours of the contest must send the officials' names and ID numbers to the IHSA office for follow-up. The IHSA will contact officials who do not submit yellow/red cards and may face sanctions.
- 3. The yellow card count includes all yellow cards received, regardless of how many players or coaches receive in a single game.

**Example:** If a player receives a caution during the game and then receives a subsequent straight red during the same game, that player's yellow card count will be charged for one for the yellow, two for the straight red and the red card count shall be charged for one.

- 4. The committee recommends that Soccer officials submit an explanation in the Yellow Card report that describes the offending behavior or language when a player or coach is issued a yellow card for dissent.
- 5. The committee recommends that administrators review yellow card reports submitted for dissent in a timely manner to address the offending player or coach regarding their behavior before their next game.

## **9. Straight Red Card Count:**

Straight red cards received by a player or coach are to be tracked by the school and the IHSA. Recipients of a straight red card will have the following consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> straight red card = 1 game suspension (current practice)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> straight red card = 2 game suspension for the recipient
- 3<sup>rd</sup> straight red card = 3 game suspension for the recipient, etc.

The straight red card(s) count accumulated during the regular season will continue through the state series.

## **10. 7-Goal Differential—Reducing Time**

During the regular season and State Series games, if there is a 7-goal differential at the start of the second half, or any time after the start of the second half, the clock shall be reduced by half of the remaining time. There are no other acceptable variations.

### **11. 9-Goal Differential—Termination of Games**

During the regular season and State Series games, if there is a 9-goal differential at the start of the second half, or any time after the start of the second half, the game shall be terminated.

### **12. Coaches Box**

During regular and post-season contests, and per NFHS rules, a designated coach's box must be marked for each game. By State Association Adoption, if one box or both boxes are not designated then coaching staff from each team must remain seated throughout the game.

First occurrence as a staff: Warning

Second occurrence as a staff: Caution

Third occurrence as a staff: Red Card and Ejection

### **13. Regular Season Overtime:**

Once a regular season game begins, and overtime has not been discussed or agreed upon in the event of a tie score, there is no opportunity to play overtime or go to PKs to determine a winner. (Be cognizant of standing conference rules.)

Options to determine **regular** season games ending in a tie:

1. No OT - game ends in a tie
2. Up to 2-10-minute periods playing both OTs to the end. If the game is still tied, it is recorded as a tie.
3. Up to 2-10-minute periods playing with golden goal. If the game is still tied, it is recorded as a tie.
4. Up to 2-10-minute periods and PK's
5. Straight to PK's