

RULES GUIDELINES to be followed by SCSOA 2011-12

These guidelines/interpretations supersede the NFHS Rule Book and have been agreed to by SCSOA and CIF.

Rule 3 - Substitutions shall be conducted in the following manner. Players leaving the field must leave on their team's side anywhere along their touchline. If both teams are on the same side of the field, the players must exit nearest their bench. Substitutes must enter at mid-field, where the halfway line intersects the touchline and **may not enter** until the player they are replacing has left the field of play and **has been directed to enter by the referee or assistant referee.**

SCSOA policy will be to enforce the following: After the game starts, substitutes must have the approval of the referee or assistant referee, before entering the field of play, **even after a goal.**

Reason: Preventative mechanics and better control. If players exit the field on their own side or near their bench, there is less chance for confrontation with opposing teams, substitutes or spectators. Also, the referee has better control of players and less time is lost through substitution. In addition, scorekeepers are rarely used by the schools.

For clarification, if a team starts with less than 11 players and a player or players arrive late, can they enter the game? SCSOA will allow them to enter at the next legal substitution opportunity, provided their name is on the roster or is added to the roster, and they are properly checked for illegal equipment.

Rule 4 - Section 4-2-2 refers to hair control devices being legal if made of soft material and not for adornment. **SCSOA policy is that head scarves or bandanas will not be allowed under any circumstances.**

Reason: SCSOA feels these are not a necessity and fall under the adornment category as well as having potentially dangerous knots. Also, this will prevent gang colors from being displayed, which could lead to other problems.

Rule 5 - 5-1-3 (a) deals with referee shirt color conflicting with the teams, where the referee must change to non-conflicting colors. SCSOA has adopted the standard colors approved by USSF for our referees. **It is mandatory that the referees dress alike in a shirt that isn't in conflict with either team. Referees must carry alternate colors with them.** If the goalkeeper is in conflict with teammates or opponents, the goalkeeper will change uniform. (Note: Recent rule change does permit referees and goalkeepers to have like color shirts.)

SCSOA policy is that only 3-striped cuff socks will be permitted. SCSOA policy is that sunglasses will not be allowed to be worn by referees. The only exception is prescription glasses. No sunglasses allow for better game control through eye contact (both with players and referees).

SCSOA policy is that referees will not wear jewelry (e.g., earrings, necklaces) as is the case for players on the field.

Rule 5 - 5-3-1(f); 12-8-3(d): IMPORTANT NOTE: A player being disqualified for a second yellow card offence for delaying tactics, dissent, incidental vulgar or profane language, entering or leaving the field of play without permission, faking an injury, simulating a foul, encroachment (all non-physical infringements); the referee shall show the yellow card and the red card (soft red) at the same time to indicate that a substitution is allowed for the player being disqualified. **In the case of a player having already earned a yellow card, when there is a subsequent physical foul that is viewed as reckless (unsporting conduct), referees should strongly consider issuing a straight red card (hard red) rather than a second caution (yellow/red or soft red). Justification for the hard red would be serious foul play.**

Reason: SCSOA and the CIF Coaches Council believe that teams should not be rewarded in these cases by being able to play at full strength. Remember a player with a yellow card should be particularly alert to not putting himself/herself in a situation where further misconduct could result in his/her disqualification.

No warning is given for TAUNTING on the first offense. The player must be disqualified and sent from the field. No substitution is permitted for this disqualification (hard red card).

Rule 9 - SCSOA will adhere to a 'common sense' rule in the case of football goal posts having crossbars and uprights that extend over the soccer goal and into the field of play. If a ball in play should hit the football goal posts, a goal kick or a corner kick will be awarded depending on which team last touched the ball. Do not award a drop ball for 'unusual circumstances.' You would be dropping the ball on the 6-yard line. Make sure your assistant referees as well as the coaches and the captains are aware of this interpretation prior to the game beginning.

Rule 9 - If the ball is caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously, the referee should make a decision as to which team to award the throw-in (use common sense).

Reason: SCSOA feels the referee will maintain better credibility if he makes a decision on a throw-in rather than show indecision by giving a drop ball, as indicated in the NFHS rule book.

Page 91 Reference to READY FOR PLAY chart: When a restart is required.

No whistle needed on a Drop Ball.

On the chart, it is indicated that the Lead referee blows the whistle on a penalty kick and a free kick. Change 'Lead' to 'Trail' for both restarts.

Add to Chart: Trail referee starts play after caution, disqualification, injury, and encroachment. On substitutions, the official nearest the ball should whistle for the restart.

Reason: No whistle on a drop ball because the referee that initiates play has the ball in hand and doesn't need to blow the whistle to start play. The Trail referee initiating play on a drop ball may cause a problem if the referee dropping the ball is not ready for the restart. On a penalty kick or free kick, the Trail referee should be at the place of the kick. He is in a better position to control the restart since he will have to deal with encroachment or delaying kicks.