

Wednesday August 14, 2013

Rule 4.1.1b

The Home team shall wear solid white jerseys.....;

Rule 4.1.1e

If visible apparel is worn under the jersey and/or shorts, it shall be of similar length, all alike and of a solid color.

For the home team with white jerseys, it is NOT a requirement that the undergarment be WHITE. This means that a team may wear a solid white short sleeved jersey and a COLORED (for example blue) long sleeve shirt underneath. The undergarment must be the same for any player of that team that chooses to wear the undergarment.

October 2, 2012

Clarifications NFHS Soccer Rules: Rule 3, Section 4 Play Rulings 3.4.1 Situation A

This ruling makes it clear that if a substitute has reported (up and ready) and is beckoned onto the field, that substitute is now a "player" and the person on the field is now a "substitute". The substitution procedure/process must be completed. There is no other option. This is simple, the coach has to follow the rules, if the coach refuses to follow the rules (a highly unlikely scenario) then, it is unsporting conduct and he is cautioned.

October 25, 2011

On an Indirect kick, tapping the top of the ball by one player (A1) does NOT constitute putting the ball in play properly. The ball must be "kicked and moved." If a ball is "tapped on top" by player A1 and then enters the goal as a result of being kicked by Player A2, IT IS NOT A GOAL... since the tapping did not qualify as putting the ball in play properly.

September 13, 2012 Marty Lawless

Some points of emphasis as we move to the last few weeks of the regular season and into the Shore Conference Playoffs and NJSIAA State Tournament...

1. If the home team cannot provide three good game balls, you may choose from balls offered by the visiting team. (2:1)
2. A player MAY wear a hearing aid or a mouth protector. (4.2.6 and 4.2.7)

3. If the clock is stopped for any reason, it does not start again until the ball is properly put into play... NOT on the sounding of the whistle.

4. A second whistle is REQUIRED after a substitution. (9:1.3)

5. If the ball hits the overhead football goals, it is dead. Period. Restart will either be a goal kick or a corner kick.

6. A "legal charge" requires at least one foot to be on the ground and arms held close to the body. (12:4.1)

7. The goalkeeper shall not deliberately parry the ball and then touch it again with his or her hands. (12:7.2)

8. If a player "deliberately kicks" a ball to his or her keeper [not merely deflects it], the keeper is not permitted to touch it with his/her hands... They MAY play it with their feet, however. (12:7.3)

9.

10. A player MAY have a foot on the line when making a throw.

11. On a corner kick, the ball MAY be placed on the line.

October 2, 2012

A. Rule 13 Section 3 Article 2 - "The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground at the spot specified by the official. To be in play, the ball shall be moved in any direction. If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, the ball is not in play until it is beyond the penalty area and into the field of play. Failure to kick the ball as specified shall result in a re-kick.

B. During an indirect free kick, A2 steps on the ball without the ball moving, and then A3 kicks the ball into Team B's goal. Ruling - Goal kick for Team B. A2 has not kicked the ball, rather simply stepped on it. The kick by A3 is the first touching. Since the restart was an indirect free kick and the ball has only been touched once before entering Team B's goal, the restart is a goal kick. Rule 13 Section 3, Article 2.

September 13, 2012

SUGGESTED PRE GAME PROCEDURES:

Arrive on time. Check match with home school and contact partner.

Determine what jersey you will be wearing.

Talk about match, substitutes, clock, restarts, areas of responsibility and other situations that could come up.

Request and retain copies of rosters for both teams (must include names of all coaches and bench personnel as well as players)

Check on the time the game will start with both coaches;

Call the captains out about five minutes before the kick-off;

Invite the Head Coaches to attend the brief pre-game meeting;

Introduce Yourself;

Head Referee takes over the pre-game: Ask the Coaches if their players are "properly and legally equipped" and whether they "will remain so throughout the match..."

Say "Thank you" to the Coaches and let them go back to their teams;

Have the Captains introduce themselves;

Briefly talk to the Captains about sportsmanship and the need for them to help out with difficult situations or difficult players;

Tell the Captains that they may address you respectfully about any matter of a rule or a rule interpretation but not about any normal call;

Ask your partner if he or she has anything to add (hopefully not much at this point!!!)

Ask for the name and number of the Speaking Captain (record this) along with team colors;

Do the Coin flip; [Visiting team always calls the coin toss]

Give the "winning" captain the choice of "Ball" or Goal";

Talk briefly with your partner about side of field, last minute signal check (corner help, goal kick help, etc.)

Bring out the players with a short whistle blast;

Count the number of players;

Ask: " _____ captain and keeper"; " _____ captain and keeper" ;

Blow the whistle to start play!

Procedure When a Goal is Scored: TWO MAN SYSTEM:

For clarity sake, it is recommended that you sound your whistle to indicate that a goal has been scored;

Stop the Clock; [Use the proper signal]

Point clearly to the midfield line;

Get the players back to midfield so the game can be restarted;

Record the goal scorer and score;

Blow your whistle to restart the game...

September 13, 2012

TEAM AREAS 1. All special areas (team, officials, scorers and timers, benches) shall be at least TEN FEET from the touchline. 2. There is an OFFICIAL AREA that extends FIVE YARDS ON EACH SIDE OF THE TOUCH LINE...This is reserved exclusively for SCORERS, TIMERS and SUBSTITUTES. Coaches are not to be in this area! 3. There is an official TEAM AREA: It begins TEN YARDS FROM THE MID LINE (that's five extra yards from the OFFICIAL AREA, described above); and then extends for an additional TWENTY YARDS...that is a total of THIRTY YARDS FROM THE MIDFIELD LINE....Generally, this means IT DOES NOT EXTEND INTO THE PENALTY AREAS.... 4. HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES, BENCH PERSONNEL, MANAGERS, TRAINERS, etc. WHO SIT WITH THE TEAM IS RESTRICTED TO THE TEAM AREA....

5. It is recommended that if teams are placed on opposite sides of the field, each team area is to be located as noted above and shall be placed DIAGONALLY across from each other....

REFERENCE: RULE 1-5, Articles 1-3 and exception...

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN: In general, coaches are not to be near the penalty areas....It is not their area in which to coach.... This includes a shootout (later in the season) where coaches and players who are not participating in the shootout are to remain in the team area....

If a coach persists in leaving the coaching area, firmly tell the coach to "return to the team area." If the coach refuses or wanders outside of the team area, you should caution the coach for unsporting behavior.

September 13, 2012

MEMO NUMBER 1: HANDLING:

First, notice that the issue is not "hand ball" but "handling." This is a subtle, but important distinction that requires "deliberately playing the ball with one's hand or arm." The hand or arm must "move toward the ball or the hand or arm must be carried in an unnatural position before an infraction of the rule can be charged." There are five basic considerations that the laws of soccer instruct referees to make.

- i) The movement of the hand
- ii) The distance between the opponent and the ball
- iii) Position of the hand
- iv) Touching the ball with an object held in the hand
- v) Hitting the ball with a thrown object

Referees must first consider the movement of the hand. If the hand moves towards the ball, then a deliberate handball is likely. However, if there is an attempt to withdraw the hand from the ball, such as to protect a “vital” body part [groin, breast, face] referees may consider that. A stationary hand might or might not be called, but a clear movement of the hand towards the ball and out from the body is typically called.

Referees must also consider the time that the ball handler had to react to the ball coming towards him. The shorter the distance is, the less likely it would seem that the player deliberately handled the ball.

The position of the hand is also a contentious issue. Generally, referees call players for handling the ball if they feel that players give themselves too much width with the position of their arms (arms far away from the body). However, the position of the hand away from the body does not automatically suggest that a ball was deliberately handled.

The handball infraction or handling is controversial because there is a grey area as far as the application and because some spectators (all of whom are experts) and players feel that blatant contact with the hand is automatically a handled ball infraction. Technically, a player can attempt to circumvent the law by always playing with his hand away from his body. If the referee feels that this is merely an attempt to claim accidental handled ball, he has the right to call it (even if the player's hand did not move).

A handball results in a direct free kick (or penalty kick if the infraction occurs in the penalty area of the offending player). The following disciplinary actions apply:

- a) If the player uses the hand merely to gain control of the ball, that is a foul but misconduct is not necessarily determined.
- b) If a player uses the hand to prevent an opponent from controlling the ball or to break up an attacking play by the opponent, that is a foul with a caution for unsporting behavior.
- c) A player can be dismissed for denying a goal-scoring opportunity by committing a handball offence.

Soccer laws expressly forbid the deliberate use of the hand or arm by players other than goalkeepers in their own penalty area. Using the hand just to control the ball could be a minor infringement. However, if you do that when the ball was on its way to goal, or to deny a goal scoring opportunity otherwise- you may have an early shower!

DISCUSSION

12.9 DELIBERATE HANDLING

The offense known as “handling the ball” involves deliberate contact with the ball by a player’s hand or arm (including fingertips, upper arm, or outer shoulder). “Deliberate contact” means that the player could have avoided the touch but chose not to, that the player’s arms were not in a normal playing position at the time, or that the player deliberately continued an initially accidental contact for the

purpose of gaining an unfair advantage. Moving hands or arms instinctively to protect the body when suddenly faced with a fast approaching ball does not constitute deliberate contact unless there is subsequent action to direct the ball once contact is made. Likewise, placing hands or arms to protect the body at a free kick or similar restart is not likely to produce an infringement unless there is subsequent action to direct or control the ball. The fact that a player may benefit from the ball contacting the hand does not transform the otherwise accidental event into an infringement.

Keys to Identifying Handling the Ball There are several key criteria referees should use to determine whether contact between a player's hand/arm and the ball constitutes a foul for handling. Many of the criteria have formed the foundation of referee identification of handling offenses for years. Despite this foundation, handling criteria continue to be applied inconsistently.

The following 3 criteria should be the primary factors considered by the referee:

1. Making oneself bigger: This refers to the placement of the arm(s)/hand(s) of the defending player at the time the ball is played by the opponent. Should an arm/hand be in a position that takes away space from the team with the ball and the ball contacts the arm/hand, the referee should interpret this contact as handling. Referees should interpret this action as the defender "deliberately" putting his arm/hand in a position in order to reduce the options of the opponent (like spreading your arms wide to take away the passing lane of an attacker).

- Does the defender use his hand/arm as a barrier?
- Does the defender use his hand/arm to take away space and/or the passing lane from the opponent?
- Does the defender use his hand/arm to occupy more space by extending his reach or extending the ability of his body to play the ball thereby benefiting from the extension(s)?

2. Is the arm or hand in an "unnatural position?" Is the arm or hand in a position that is not normal or natural for a player performing the task at hand. 3. Did the player "benefit?" In considering all the "signs" described above, the referee should also consider the result of the player's (usually a defender) action. Did the defender's action (handling of the ball) deny an opportunity (for example, a pass or shot on goal) that would have otherwise been available to the opponent? Did the offending player gain an unfair tactical advantage from contact with the hand/arm which enabled him to retain possession? In other words: Did the player benefit by putting his hand/arm in an "unnatural position?" The referee needs to be able to quickly calculate the result of the player's action to determine whether an offence has been committed.

After applying the aforementioned criteria, if the referee is still uncertain as to whether handling the ball has occurred, the referee should then incorporate the following two criteria as part of his decision making process: 4. Reaction Time: The less time a defender has to react, the less likely there has been a handling offense. For example, a ball struck from a close distance, or a very fast moving ball, or a ball coming in from a direction which is outside the defender's view gives little or no time for the defender's reaction to be "deliberate." The referee must take into consideration whether the defender's reaction is purely instinctive, taken to protect sensitive areas of the body as the face. Distance is a factor in determining "reaction time." The further the ball, the more reaction time a play may have.

5. Hand/arm to ball: Referees must be ready to judge whether the player moved his arm to the ball thereby initiating the contact. Additionally, the referee should evaluate whether the player deliberately readjusted his body position to block the ball thus intentionally playing the ball with his hand/arm.

MEMO NUMBER 2: LAW 11 – OFFSIDE Definitions: In the context of Law 11 — Offside, the following definitions apply: * “nearer to his opponents’ goal line” means that any part of a player’s head, body or feet is nearer to his opponents’ goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent. The arms are not included in this definition. * “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a teammate. * “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent. * “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position.

September 13, 2012

1. Inadvertent Whistle: If one team is clearly in possession of the ball when an inadvertent whistle is sounded, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession of the ball at the point when the ball was when play was suspended. Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an inadvertent whistle, there will be a drop ball at the spot the ball was declared dead subject to the provision of Rule 9-2-2 (if the ball was within the goal area, the ball shall be dropped on that part of the goal-area line [that is, the line six yards out from the goal line or end line] which runs parallel to the goal line nearest the location where the ball was when play was stopped). See Rule 9.2.1 Situation B. 2. SCREENING or Shielding: Question:

If a player is screening (shielding) the ball and it is in playable distance, is it legal for the screening player to raise their arms to make it harder for the opposing player to get to the ball?

Our high school (NFHS) rules provide: “Shielding is the movement by a player in control of the ball (within playing distance) designed to prevent an opponent from gaining possession or prevent him/her from tackling the ball.” Rule 18.1hh,(Definition).

Some help is given from the official USSF answer (September 8, 2009):]Here is a citation from the 2009/2010 Laws of the Game, Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees (IGR), has to say on the matter: “Shielding the ball is permitted. A player who places himself between an opponent and the ball for tactical reasons has not committed an offense as long as the ball is kept in playing distance and the player does not hold off the opponent with his extended arms or generally the body moving back into the opponent. If the ball is within playing distance, the player may be fairly charged by an opponent.” Charges that are permitted are shoulder to shoulder in the shoulder area. The player shielding the ball is not required to move towards the ball so long as the ball remains within playing distance.

When physical contact occurs, which is what the IGR means when it refers holding off an opponent, the act has been converted into holding by the shield use a normal amount of arm and elbow room, but not to extend his/her arms beyond that range

A player who is within playing distance of the ball as determined by the referee, not the player is permitted to interpose his/her body between the ball and the opponent. The fact that he/she is larger makes absolutely no difference. What about the use of a hip? Unless you are absolutely certain that the shielding player has physically moved his/her hip during the actual contact, thus using a part of her body for a purpose that is not permitted then there has been no foul here Playing distance in high school is usually within two yards 3. As to the charge from behind: \A player may charge (bodily contact attempting to cause an opponent to loose or give up possession) from behind, but only in the area of the shoulder(NOT THE SPINAL/BUTT AREA) and only if the opponent is shielding a ball that is within playing distance. This can include a certain portion of the shoulder blade but never in the area that is clearly the back. The charge may not be done with excessive force (this can be a sending-off offense). 4. DEFENSIVE POSITIONING: Likewise, a defending player may place his/her body up against a players back [but may not charge in the back area] but may not push the player being defended by extending their hand or hands out from their own body in contact with the opponent. NOTE: Placing a hand on the back of a player is not necessarily a foul but extending the hand outward is!!! The defending player may not hold down a player or place hands on an opponent's shoulders or use the professional foul of holding or pressing down on a hip and more importantly, the player may not kick at the legs of a player being defended (as where a player is shielding, above). Any contact with the foot or legs should be penalized with a DFK. Do not permit a player who is guarding/defending/or attempting to take away a ball from behind to whack at the legs of his or her opponent, advantage should be invoked very sparingly and only then if it a clear, absolute advantage.

September 13, 2012 Subject: RE: Rules Clarifications/Interpretations

1. ALL LEVELS of teams must submit a player roster with the names and numbers of players. This includes Junior Varsity and Freshman games.

2. Regarding Rule 3.3.1.c.1: Technically, only ONE PERSON, Coach or Trainer, is permitted on the field to attend to an injured player. However, if the trainer comes on and it is a serious injury, we should also let the coach come on to the field. In some cases, the COACH will come on first, then a trainer comes afterwards when the seriousness of an injury becomes evident. This is one area we can use our judgment and not be too harsh about... This is NOT a new rule... But remember: In no case, may a coach engage in "coaching" his or her players during an injury stoppage. 3. Regarding knee braces: Rule 4.2.1: Illegal Equipment First principle: "Illegal equipment shall not be worn by any player" f. Knee braces which are altered from the manufacturer's original design/production. Knee braces that are unaltered are legal and do not require any additional padding.

INTERPRETATION: The knee brace is to be checked by the referee prior to the game. (Situation 4.2.5)

A knee brace with exposed metal is illegal and must be covered with the manufacturer's neoprene sleeve. If metal is exposed, do not allow the player to wear the brace without the protective sleeve.

According to Alan Brown, our State Interpreter, plastic is generally permitted without a covering. However, if you decide that the exposed plastic is dangerous, you may require it to be covered. Section 2 states that the types of illegal equipment are not exhaustive. It is the "opinion of the referee" that matters. But be judicious in these matters.

MEMO: NUMBER 3: INTERPRETATIONS September 13, 2012

1. TAPE ON WRIST: As long as it is not covering anything; Athletic tape on wrists is legal as long as it is not ragged and no writing appears on the tape and it does not cover anything. (Per state Interpreter, Alan Brown). Sweat bands on wrists or head continue to be LEGAL!

2. When the ball is COMING OUT of the penalty area on either a goal kick or a free kick taken within the penalty area: All free kicks taken within the penalty area under these circumstances must leave the penalty area... Period... If the ball does not clear the penalty area, it results in a re-kick...A player can not touch the ball until it leaves (clears) the penalty area... A teammate of the kicker or an opponent who goes into the penalty area to play the ball before it leaves the area MAY BE CAUTIONED, depending on the situation... You must judge the intent of the party who circumvents the rule. 3. At a stoppage when the goalkeeper has the ball in his/her hand, a free kick must be taken... No punt by the keeper is permitted! Remember: If the Coach or trainer is beckoned onto the field to attend to an injured player, the player MUST leave the field. As a matter of good officiating practice, wait just a bit (unless there is an obvious injury) if the player is the goal keeper.

4. If you stop the game to administer a card for unsporting behavior for a player or coach, the restart will be an indirect free kick for the opposite team. If you had previously stopped the play for any reason, and you administer a card to a player or coach, the restart will be whatever the previous restart would have been.

5. On a corner kick: If the ball is not placed properly, tell the player to place it properly. If a corner kick is taken when the ball is improperly placed, this results in a re-kick. If you feel the action was to waste time, you MAY administer a yellow card for delay.

Comments: REMEMBER: "ARE YOUR PLAYERS LEGALLY AND PROPERLY EQUIPPED?" MUST BE ASKED EACH AND EVERY GAME OF BOTH COACHES AND THEY MUST ANSWER AFFIRMATIVELY.... REMEMBER: CONFIRM ALL GAMES!!! That is our commitment!

September 10, 2010

Concerning the question regarding the restart after carding a coach... We have contacted the State Interpreter for a clarification and confirmation of the correct procedure.

A temporary suspension of play does not include the giving of cards. Therefore, we will follow rule #12, sec. 8, sit. c (pg. 57). We urge you to read the play ruling. This is the import of the ruling: If a coach is carded for bench misconduct, the re-start will be an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot the ball was when play was stopped.

Cordially,

Richard Hunter

SSOA Interpreter