

## 2004 NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER RULES CHANGES

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The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee conducted its annual meeting February 10-13, 2004 in Indianapolis, Indiana and later conferred via telephone conference call approving certain changes for the 2004 playing season which are digested below.

### Rule 1 - The Field of Play

#### **Rule 1 § 1b**

**It is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team-before the date of the game-of any changes in field dimensions (e.g., greater or lesser than minimal requirements), playing surface (e.g., from grass to artificial or vice-versa), or location of the playing site. Further, it is recommended that teams agree on field dimensions before confirming contests or signing game contracts.**

*Penalty - the game shall not begin and the referee shall file a report with the governing sports authority.*

*Comment: Rule 1-1-b is an administrative rule and may be altered by prior written mutual consent.*

#### **Rule 1 § 12b**

**Penalty for being out of coaching and team area - the referee shall inform the offending coach that on a recurrence, an indirect free kick shall be awarded against the offending team from the point where the ball was when the infraction occurred. On the second infraction, a caution shall be issued. *On the third infraction, an ejection shall be issued.***

*Comment: This ruling clarifies that the third infraction shall result in an ejection.*

### Rule 3 - Players and Substitutes

#### **Rule 3 § 5**

**as follows:**

**With reference to periods of play, substitutions are permitted**

**First half: No reentry.**

***Second half: One reentry.***

**First overtime period: No reentry.  
Second overtime period: No reentry.**

*Comment: The 2003 substitution rule did not allow reentry in any portion of the game. A majority of the intercollegiate soccer community felt the no reentry policy was too restrictive and improperly limited student-athlete participation. Accordingly, the 2004 rule was changed to permit one reentry in the second half, only.*

#### **Rule 4 - Player's Equipment**

**Rule 4 § 2**

**Goalkeepers shall wear jerseys and socks that distinguish them from all field players and referees.**

*Comment: This change was made to assist in identifying the goalkeeper and his/her involvement in play.*

**Rule 4 § 5**

**A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to self or any other player.**

***Head gear, headbands and hats (goalkeepers) are legal providing they are not considered dangerous to self or others.***

*Comment: This language was added in response to requests from membership, particularly regarding the issue of protective headgear.*

#### **Rule 5 - The Referee**

**Rule 5 § 3a**

**The referee's jurisdiction shall begin 30 minutes before the start of play and shall end when the officials leave the site of the competition. *The site of the competition is defined as the field, locker rooms, parking areas and the surroundings generally associated with athletics facilities.***

*Comment: This language was added to clarify the jurisdiction of the referee with regard to time and location, particularly with regard to pre- and post-game incidents.*

**Rule 5 § 5b**

**The referee shall caution any player, coach or other bench personnel for misconduct or unsporting behavior (persistent infringement of any of the rules of the game) and, if the behavior persists, eject that individual from the game.**

**When cautioning a player, coach or other bench personnel, the referee shall display a yellow card and indicate the appropriate person. *If a previously cautioned player, coach or other bench personnel commits a second cautionable offense, the referee shall display a yellow card followed immediately by a red card.***

*Comment: This change in referee mechanics requiring the display of both cards is consistent with the FIFA procedure and is intended to provide additional information to players, coaches and fans.*

**Approved Ruling 153**

**A player received two “yellow” cards in the same game. For accumulation purposes, how many “yellow” cards does he/she have? Ruling: One. It is impossible to accumulate more than one “yellow” card per game inasmuch as the second card “issued” to the same person in the same game shall be red.**

**Rule 12 - Violations and Misconduct**

**Rule 12 § 2**

This rule was *amended to permit electronic mail (e-mail)*, in addition to telephone and facsimile, as an acceptable form for the referee and NISOA regional representative to inform the athletics director of the ejected player’s institution of a fighting ejection within 48 hours of the incident.

**Rule 12 § 14**

**A caution is a formal disciplinary action requiring specific procedures to be followed that include the display of a yellow card. Any player, coach, team official or participant listed on the official roster who violates the rules of conduct may be cautioned. A player shall be cautioned by the referee if the player:**

*d. Uses profane language in an incidental manner; or*

*e. engages in other acts of unsporting conduct, including taunting, baiting or ridiculing another player (bench personnel or officials).*

*Comment: This new verbiage clarifies the language and type of conduct which warrants a mandatory caution.*

**Approved Ruling 125**

**A player misses a shot and uses incidental profanity directed at no one in particular. Ruling: The referee shall caution the player.**

**Rule 12 § 15**

**An ejection is a formal disciplinary action requiring specific procedures to be followed that include the display of a red card. An ejection also requires that a misconduct report be written by the referee and submitted to the governing authority. Any player, coach, team official or participant listed on the official roster who violates the official rules of conduct may be ejected. The referee shall eject from the game a player, who cannot be replaced, a coach or any team representative if that individual:**

***g. Uses abusive, threatening, or obscene language or engages in such behavior or conduct;***

*Comment: This new verbiage clarifies the language and type of conduct which warrants a red card and ejection of the offending individual.*

**Approved Ruling 133**

**If the referee believes that a player, coach or other bench personnel uses abusive, threatening or obscene language/gestures unintentionally, may the referee decide not to eject the individual? Ruling: No.**

***Official NCAA interpretations can be obtained at a website addressing frequently asked questions and rule interpretations answered by Secretary-Rules Editor C. Cliff McCrath at: [NCAA.org](http://NCAA.org). Go to Sports and Championships and follow the prompts to Interpretations to access this benefit.***