

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
1161 Route 130, P.O. Box 487 Robbinsville, N.J. 08691

TO: Soccer Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Chapter Secretaries

From: Larry L. White, Assistant Director

**RE: 2007 Soccer Rules Modifications**

The NJSIAA Soccer Rules Interpreter is:

Alan Brown  
20 Clinton Place  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840  
Home Phone: (732) 494-1264  
Cell Phone: (732) 841-5323

Modifications of the 2007 National Federation Soccer Rules

Rule 1-6-1 - The Field of Play

Section 6: The NJSIAA is requiring perimeter fencing or roping twenty-five (25) feet from the official side and endlines for VARSITY games. The obvious intent is to separate unauthorized people from teams, coaches, and official scorers. Where field configuration may prohibit full adherence (twenty-five (25) feet) or use of public parks or elementary school fields make fencing unmanageable, large rubber cones or other temporary markings are acceptable provided the spectator separation is accomplished. Adult supervision may be needed in these cases.

If officials feel these conditions are not fulfilled, they are to play the game, but report the infraction to the administration of the home team and the NJSIAA Central Office.

Rule 3-4-1 – Field Player Replacing Goalie During Substitution

Section 5: Stop the clock for the change to be made.

Rule 4-2-8 - Player Equipment

A protective face mask may be worn by a player with a facial injury. The mask may be made of hard material, but must be molded to the face with no protrusions. A medical release for the Player signed by a physician (MD/DO) shall be available at the game site. Procedure - All masks must be inspected by the State Rules Interpreter, Alan Brown, to determine if the mask is dangerous or confusing. A note of approval must also be present along with said physician's note.

Rule 4-1-1-Player Equipment

Shinguards must be professionally manufactured, age and size appropriate, not altered to decrease protection, worn under the stockings with the bottom edge no higher than two inches above the ankle. The shinguard must cover at least 60% of the area starting two inches above the ankle and extending to the kneecap.

Rule 5. - The Referee, and Assistant Referees

Section 1      General

Article 1:      Note: The three (3) official system may be used for any of the following contests:

- a. Night games
- b. Weekend games
- c. Local Tournaments
- d. NJSIAA Semifinal and Group Finals
- e. Scrimmages

**2007 NJSIAA Soccer Rules Modifications**  
Page 2

Rule 7. - Duration of Game, Length of Periods

Section 1      Length of Periods

Article 1:      The duration of the game shall be two (2) equal halves of forty (40) minutes each.

Article 3:      If less than one half (1/2) of a game has been played, the game will be rescheduled from the start.

Sub-varsity teams may play forty (40) minutes halves upon adoption by individual conferences.

Section 3      Tie Games - All Varsity games tied at the end of regulation time, **MUST** use the following procedure:

Article 1:      Up to two (2) "sudden victory" overtime periods of ten (10) minutes each will be played. The first team to score shall be declared the winner. If the score is still even, at the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> overtime period, the game shall be recorded as a tie. In State Tournament games, if the score remains tied after the completion of the overtime periods, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner. In the State Finals only, if the tie remains after the completion of the second overtime, a co-championship will be declared.

Teams that do not play overtime, other than for reasons of the elements, will both forfeit the game.

No contest shall exceed 100 minutes of playing time.

Rule 12. - Fouls and Misconduct

Section 8      Misconduct

A.      The NJSIAA wishes to emphasize that a player, coach, or bench personnel guilty of flagrant physical or verbal unsportsmanlike conduct including taunting is committing a disqualifying offense: violent conduct, serious foul play, the use of foul or abusive language, or leaving the team area to enter the field to participate in, as defined above, a fight or altercation. The first such offense will result in a red card disqualification and an additional two (2)-game disqualification. A previous caution need not have been issued to the perpetrator. For each field player sent off, the team must play short one person for the rest of the game. The official issuing the send off shall display the red card in one hand.

B.      Yellow card cautions are issued for unsportsmanlike conduct, for persistent infringements of the rules, for dissenting from the decision of an official, for using incidental profanity or vulgarity, for a player, coach or bench personnel entering or leaving the field without having received permission from the official, and for a coach guilty of his/her team being improperly equipped during the contest, for the use of video equipment to assist in coaching the game, for the use of any tobacco products at the game site during the period of the jurisdiction of the officials..

**2007 NJSIAA Soccer Rules Modifications**  
**Page 3**

Rule 12. - Fouls and Misconduct

- C. A player sent off for violation of playing Rule 12-8-3(c)1 - A player intentionally handling the ball to prevent it from entering the goal - shall not suffer the additional two (2) game disqualification. The team must play short one person for the rest of the game. The official issuing the send off shall indicate this by displaying the red card in one hand, and the yellow card in the other.
- D. A player, coach, or bench personnel shall be sent off for committing a second cautionable offense. NOTE: THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD SHALL NOT BE REDUCED. The official issuing the send off shall indicate this by showing simultaneously both the yellow and red cards in the SAME hand (the team may substitute for the disqualified player.)

NOTE: B, C, and D above will not carry the additional NJSIAA 2-game disqualification.

**State Tournament Regulations:**

Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis and must have:

1. at least a **50% WINNING RECORD**, regardless of the strength of their schedule in all games up to and including October 19, 2007. **All games tied at the end of regulation time on the Varsity level, must play up to two "sudden victory" overtime periods. If the tie is broken, the win or loss must be included on the entry form. Failure to play the overtime period(s) will result in a loss for each team.**
2. Seventy percent (70%) of games played before the cutoff date (Oct. 19th) must be against New Jersey Schools.
3. **Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the NJSIAA tournament, will be unable to compete in said tournament.**
4. **Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the start of the NJSIAA tournament, will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.**