

Dear CSOA Referee: (email 3 June 2020)

Today I call your attention to three rules changes that won't be that difficult to apply. The first rule pertains to mouth guards /mouth protection. Some of us may be surprised there is even a rule in the book that addresses a mouth protector. That old rule states that the mouth protector, if worn, cannot be completely white nor completely clear. Say what? Well, in 2020-21 we don't have to worry about the color. Mouth protectors can now be white or clear. Now, don't you feel better?

Here is the actual change as it pertains to Page 27: 4-2-7e, f:

**SECTION 2 OTHER EQUIPMENT: ART. 7**...A tooth and mouth protector (intraoral), if worn, shall:

(remove) e. not to be completely white; and

(remove) f. not to be completely clear.

*Rationale: SMAC no longer recommends the mouth protector meet these two criteria; dropping these two requirements brings soccer in line with the other sports that allow mouth guards.*

The next rule change relates to a rule that all High School referees have had a difficult time enforcing and that is the uniform jersey must be tucked in before and during the game *unless manufactured to be worn outside*. How were we supposed to know the purpose of jersey manufacturing? Well, now we don't have to worry about it. That particular requirement has been eliminated.

Here is the actual change as it pertains to page 22: 4-1-1a:

**SECTION 1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: ART. 1a**...The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and the home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white). **(Remove the following sentence.)** *Prior to and during the game, jerseys shall be tucked into the shorts, unless manufactured to be worn outside.*

*Rationale: Manufacturing practices have changed.*

The third rule change for this edition is actually a new addition to the 2020-21 rules book, which brings the NFHS and IFAB into alignment on this particular issue. Prior to this new change if a referee forgot to give the IDFK signal in a high school game and the IDFK goes directly into the goal, the restart was a goal kick where under the IFAB Law the same mistake by the referee gave a re-kick. Well, now if the referee makes this mistake in an NFHS game the restart, a re-take, is the same as if the mistake was made under IFAB laws. **(Takeaway, don't forget to give the signal.)**

Here is the new addition that goes on page 68:

**13-3-4 NEW SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN NEW ART. 4**...For indirect kicks, the referee shall signal an indirect kick (using Official NFHS Soccer Signals Rule 5-3-1b) by raising an arm above the head; this signal shall be maintained until the kick is taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play. If the referee fails to signal the kick is indirect and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal, the kick shall be retaken.

*Rationale: This clarifies the need to make the signal and prevents punishing the team taking the kick when the referee fails to give the proper signal.*

Dear CSOA Referee: (email 12 June 2020)

This email discusses three more rules changes for 2020/21. These three changes also bring NFHS in line with IFAB regarding the Wall and goalkeeper guidance and restrictions on PKs/KFTPm.

Today I call your attention to three rules changes that won't be that difficult to apply and fall directly in line with IFAB. The first rule pertains to an addition to Rule 13-3-1, Free Kicks, as it relates to the wall set up by the defense. At the end of paragraph 13-3-1 the following sentence is added: When 3 or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play. In regards to when the ball is in play we will discuss that rule change in a subsequent email.

Here is the actual change as it pertains to Page 68:

### 13-3-1 SECTION 3 HOW TAKEN

ART. 1...Players opposing the kicker shall be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked, unless they are standing on their own goal line between the goal posts. If the free kick is awarded to the defending team in its penalty area, players opposing the kicker shall be outside the penalty area at least 10 yards from the ball and shall [Delete: must] remain there until the ball is in play [Delete: clears the penalty area]. Where 3 or more defending team players form a wall, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play.

Rationale: This will allow the ball to be put back into play quicker and will lead to a decrease in confrontational moments during free kicks.

The next rule change relates to the goalkeeper's restrictions and permissions on the taking of the penalty kick. Now, in NFHS, as in IFAB, the goalkeeper must stand with one foot on or in-line with the goal line. The requirement to face the kicker remains as well as being between the goal posts. Also, the goalkeeper is not allowed to touch the goal posts, crossbar nor the nets, until the ball is kicked. The goalkeeper is allowed to move laterally. The rule change states that forward movement is allowed and I think that means one foot can come forward off the line slightly before the kick but only one foot.

Here is the actual change as it pertains to page 69:

### 14-1-3 SECTION 1 PENALTY KICK

ART. 3...The opposing goalkeeper shall stand with at least one foot on or in-line with the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts, and shall not be touching the goal posts, crossbar, or nets, until the ball is kicked. Lateral or forward movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not permitted to come off the line with both feet **[Delete: by stepping or lunging forward]** until the ball is in play.

Rationale: This clarifies the goalkeeper's position during the taking of a penalty kick.

So the rule change for the goalkeeper position on a penalty kick covers two aspects: one is the goalkeeper may move one foot off the goal line as the kick is taken and also may not cause the goal posts, crossbar or nets to move prior to the kick.

Dear CSOA Referee: (email 23 June 2020)

This email discusses the good ol' drop ball. The NFHS has finally caught up with IFAB for 2020/21. If you are familiar with the IFAB interpretation for 2019-2020 then you are ahead of the game.

Before I say anything about the new procedures, I want to remind you of the old procedures that remain in effect.

First - if the ball becomes dead within the goal area, it shall be dropped on the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal line nearest the location where the ball was when play was stopped.

Second - the referee will drop the ball from waist level.

Third - ball is not in play until it touches the ground.

Fourth - if the drop ball enters the goal from a drop ball without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick or corner kick, depending on which goal it entered.

**NEW APPLICATION:** the referee will drop the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball at the position where it was last touched by a player(s), an outside agent or match official. Additionally, if when play was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch, by either team, was in the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper with all opposing players outside the penalty area. And in all cases all other players must remain at least 4 yards from the ball until it is in play.

What you will hear frequently: "There are no more contested drop balls." In other words, it is no longer a *contest* among players to be first to get the ball at a drop ball. The ball is dropped to one person only. Okay, now you know the new drop ball procedures thoroughly!

Additionally, we have a new drop-ball restart that did not exist before. We now drop the ball when the ball hits an official (the referee in the middle of the field or the assistant referee if they are on the field) and certain conditions are met. There is a completely new paragraph in the Rules Book for 2020-21.

**Paragraph 9-1-1b** states that:

"The ball is out of play when: ... the ball touches an official and remains on the field; and

1. a team starts a promising attack;
2. goes directly into the goal;
3. possession changes."

Here are some "what ifs."

1. A pass by A2 to A3 strikes the referee who is inbounds and the pass is controlled by B2. Play is stopped and restarted for Team A with a drop ball where the ball struck the referee.
2. A pass by A2 to A3 strikes the assistant referee who is straddling the touchline and inbounds and the pass is controlled by B2. Play is stopped and restarted for Team A with a drop ball where the ball struck the assistant referee.
3. An indirect free kick strikes an official while in the field of play and then continues directly into the goal. Play is restarted with a goal kick because the ball cannot be scored after striking the referee and going into the goal without touching another player after touching the official.
4. An indirect free kick strikes an official while in the field of play and rebounds to a player who is onside and who then kicks it into the goal. The restart is a drop ball because a promising attack started after the referee was struck. (Drop ball to the team taking the kick.)
5. Player B2 takes a direct free kick from outside the penalty area and strikes the referee who is in the penalty area and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal. No goal and the ball is dropped to the goal keeper defending that penalty area.
6. Player B2 takes a direct free kick from outside the penalty area and strikes the referee who is also outside the penalty area and the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal. No goal and the ball is

dropped to Team B where the ball struck the referee.

7. The referee loses his/her focus and inadvertently blows the whistle while the ball is in the penalty area. Play is restarted with a drop ball to the goal keeper defending that penalty area.
8. The referee loses his/her focus and inadvertently blows the whistle while the ball is in outside the penalty area. Play is restarted with a drop ball to the team which last played the ball, where the ball was when the whistle sounded.
9. The referee plans to restart the game with a drop ball to Player A1 because Team A had possession before the game was stopped for an unusual situation (injury, outside interference, etc.). How far away must Team B players be from Player A1 at the taking of the drop ball? Four (4) yards until the ball is in play (touches the ground).
10. Player A, while in the penalty area, kicks the ball area and the ball deflects off the referee who is also in the penalty area. The ball goes into the goal. Play is restarted with a drop ball to goal keeper B where the ball hit the referee.
11. Player A, while in the penalty area, kicks the ball and the ball deflects off the referee who is also in the penalty area. The ball goes to teammate A2 who then scores a goal. Play is restarted with a drop ball to the goal keeper B where the ball hit the referee.
12. Player A, while in the penalty area, kicks the ball and the ball deflects off the referee who is also in the penalty area. The ball goes to defender B2. Play is restarted with a drop ball to the goal keeper B where the ball hit the referee.
13. Player A, while in the penalty area, kicks the ball and the ball deflects off the referee who is also in the penalty area. The ball goes to a spot where teammate A2 has a scoring opportunity . Play is restarted with a drop ball to the goal keeper B where the ball hit the referee.
14. Player A2, while in the penalty area, kicks the ball and the ball deflects off the referee who is also in the penalty area. The ball goes directly back to A2 at the spot where he/she kicked the ball. Play continues as there was no change in possession, no goal scored and no promising attack developed.
15. Attacking player A2 kicks the ball from either inside or outside his/her opponent's penalty area. The ball strikes the referee and deflects over the goal line and not into the goal. Play is restarted with a goal kick because after hitting the referee the ball remained in play and a promising attack did not develop, the ball did not enter the goal and possession did not change.
16. Defending player B2 kicks the ball from either inside or outside his/her penalty area. The ball strikes the referee and deflects over the goal line and not into the goal. Play is restarted with a corner kick because after hitting the referee the ball remained in play and a promising attack did not develop, the ball did not enter the goal and possession did not change.
17. Player A2 kicks the ball forward and the ball is simultaneously played by A3 and B3 who commit simultaneous fouls. A drop ball is awarded to the team who last had possession, in this case Team A.\*
18. Player A2 kicks the ball forward and the ball is simultaneously played out-of-bounds by A3 and B3. The drop ball is awarded to the team who last had possession, in this case Team A, and the drop ball takes place 5 yards inside the field of play from the boundary line where it was simultaneously touched by A3 and B3.\*

\* In the case of the last two simultaneous incidents mentioned above (17 & 18) I encourage you, as a team, to avoid giving drop balls for them if possible. As referees we want to demonstrate decisiveness and drop balls for these two instances don't support that. Use drop balls for these two instances judiciously.

**Drop Ball Restart** – Drop ball now goes to one player only – all other players must be 4 yards away and if dropped in the penalty area it's dropped to the goal keeper and all opposing players must be outside the penalty area

When play is stopped for	Where taken	Who takes the drop	Reference
Temporary suspension for injury,	Where ball was at the time of the suspension	The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball <sup>1</sup> ( <i>unless ball was in penalty area or last touch of possession was in PA, then drop ball goes to GK who defends that PA</i> )	9-2-1c 9-2-4
ball becomes deflated,			2-2-4 9-2-1b Except 14-1-7 <sup>3</sup>
or unusual situation			9-2-1c Except 14-1-7 <sup>3</sup>
Ball hits Referee and a team starts a promising attack	Where the ball touched the referee	The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball	9-1-1b
Ball hits referee and goes directly into goal			9-1-1b
Ball hits referee and possession changes			9-1-1b
Out of play by 2 players simultaneously <sup>2</sup>	Five yards inside boundary line at spot of departure	The referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last possessed the ball prior to the touch/fouls <sup>4</sup>	9-2-1a 9-2-3
Equal fouls by opponents simultaneously <sup>2</sup>	At the spot of the fouls		9-2-1d 9-2-3

<sup>1</sup> If the last touch of possession was in the penalty area, regardless of the circumstances, the drop ball goes to the goal keeper in that penalty area.

<sup>2</sup> I offer some guidance and best-practice advice to the simultaneous touch/foul situation. Referees should be decisive in these situations and do your utmost, as a team, to choose one player or the other as having last touched or fouled. Dropping a ball in these situations indicates indecisiveness and should be avoided if possible. For instance, at a throw-in situation you can watch which team goes for the ball in order to take the throw in. Players usually know. In any case chose one direction and go with it.

<sup>3</sup> If any of these situations happen during the taking of a penalty kick a drop ball is not the restart. The proper restart is for the penalty kick to be retaken. These situations include unusual situations such as ball becomes deflated, outside agent interferes, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Even though the touches/fouls may be simultaneous, one team possessed the ball before the simultaneous touch/foul. That's the team that gets the drop ball.

Dear CSOA Referee: (email 2 July 2020)

This email covers the final area of rules changes for 2020/21: when the ball is in play from a kick originating from the penalty area. Here we are talking about goal kicks and free kicks. If you are familiar with the IFAB interpretation for 2019-2020 then you are again ahead of the game.

THE GOAL KICK goal kick no longer has to clear the penalty area to be in play. Rule 16.1.3: Once the ball is spotted for the goal kick "it shall be kicked from the ground from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. **The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.**" On a goal kick, when the ball is kicked and moved it has been **properly taken**. At this point, **any player** may play the ball except the original kicker, who may not again play the ball unless it has touched another player. At the taking of a goal kick all opposing players shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is **in play**.

TRIVIA QUESTION: Can a goal be scored if a goal kick is kicked into the opponent's goal? (See answer at the end of this email.)

Free kicks (direct and indirect) taken from within the penalty area (by the defending team) are taken as they would be anywhere on the field, with one exception. That exception is all **opponents** shall be **outside the penalty area** in addition to being ten yards from the ball. As with the goal kick, the free kick does not have to clear the penalty area. **It is in play when it is kicked and moved**. This means that once the ball has been kicked and moves, it is in play, and at this point any player can challenge for the ball, other than the original kicker. Opponents who were outside the penalty area can now enter the penalty area and challenge for the ball.

The rule says opponents shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. But, what about opponents who are still in the penalty area when the kick is taken? Sometimes the kicking team wants to take a quick kick and the opponent(s) genuinely did not have time to get out of the penalty area. Also, as we know, some players intentionally *linger* hoping to gain an advantage. As referees we need to be aware of players who are in one category or another. An opponent who is still in the penalty area **may not interfere with or prevent the taking of the kick** but may intercept the ball once it is in play. If we (referees) determine they genuinely did not have time to leave the penalty area and they do not interfere we let play continue. If we determine the player was *lingering* to take advantage *and interferes*, we can have the kick retaken. This has always been the case for free kicks out on the pitch involving the required distance and interference. It now applies to free kicks from within the penalty area under the new rule.

Another challenge for us as referees is to see the tendencies of the teams at the taking of goal kicks and free kicks from within the penalty area. Prior to this we tended to position ourselves upfield in anticipation of the long ball and a drop zone somewhere around midfield. Now, with the short pass option, we must read the teams and may need to adjust our position, depending on how the team tends to put the ball into play.

Dear CSOA Referee: (email 23 July 2020)

So far, we have covered the free training provided by NFHS and the rules changes for 2020/21. So, for this issue I chose a subject for which I have never felt completely confident in my own knowledge: **substitutions**. I put the 2020/21 rules book under my pillow for several weeks and here is the result. A synopsis of the words below is attached as a chart for your convenience. Rule 3 needs to be reviewed thoroughly and often during the season.

There are three basic occasions, methods, categories, or procedures, if you will, for substitutes to enter the game: 1) single player from the bench, 2) multiple players from the bench and 3) multiple players after checking in and waiting for the opportunity.

Category 1, a single player from the bench (this assumes no substitutes have checked in and are waiting for the opportunity): when a player is cautioned, the coach can select a substitute from the bench and send them to the touchline at mid field to be recognized (checked in) and beckoned on by the referee to replace the cautioned player. The same procedure can be followed when a player is discovered to have blood on his/her uniform or an open wound and is sent from the field to be cleaned up. The coach can select a player from the bench who must go to the touchline at mid field to be recognized (checked in) and beckoned on by the referee. Remember that in any of these instances a replacement (substitute) for the affected player is not mandatory – the team can play short. Also remember that the cautioned player, if not replaced, must wait until after play has restarted to return at a substitution opportunity for his/her team. If, after play has restarted, the coach decides to substitute for the cautioned player, that player too must wait for a substitution opportunity for his/her team. The player who left the field to clean blood on the uniform, may be beckoned back on the field at any dead ball situation once the situation has been corrected and inspected. If play has restarted and the coach then decides to substitute for the player who left because of blood on the uniform, that substitute must wait for a legitimate substitution opportunity for that team.

Category 2, unlimited substitutes from the bench (this assumes no substitutes have checked in and are waiting for the opportunity): when a goal is scored or a player is injured, either team can send any number of players from the bench to the touchline at mid field to be recognized (checked in) and beckoned on by the referee. Additionally, any substitutions made during a break between periods are recognized by inference when the team fields the proper number of players and they do not have to “check in” nor be beckoned on by the referee.

Category 3, unlimited substitutes who have checked in prior to the stoppage and are waiting to substitute: this category covers most occasions we encounter. Either team can send in their “already checked in” substitutes in the following circumstances after being beckoned by the referee: goal kick, a caution or a disqualification of a player on either team, a caution or disqualification of bench personnel on either team, or a player from either team ordered to leave the field for communicable disease or open wound. There are two more occasions where players already checked in prior to the stoppage can substitute – **the throw in and corner kick** – however only the substitutes for the team in possession of the throw in or corner kick are allowed to substitute at that time **UNLESS** the team not in possession of the throw in or corner kick have already checked in prior to the stoppage and the team in possession is also substituting.

NOTE: Here are some special considerations regarding substitutes and the substitution process.

- 1) Substitutes become players once beckoned by the referee. (Page 17, 3.3.6) A word of caution is to have complete situational awareness of the substitution procedure. If the player being substituted is still on the field and commits a disqualifying act after the substitute is beckoned, the team does not play short.
- 2) Penalty kicks must be taken by players who were on the field at the time of awarding the penalty kick; no substitutes entering at that time are allowed to take the penalty kick. (Pages 16, 3.2.b.4 and 19, 3.3.D)
- 3) Once a substitute has checked in and is beckoned on by the referee, that substitute becomes a player and cannot be withdrawn by the coach at that time; they must enter the field. (Page 21, 3.4.1 SITUATION A)
- 4) Even substitutes entering from the bench must still “check in” and be beckoned on by the referee. (Rule 3)
- 5) If the goalkeeper is the one required to leave the field for a caution, injury, or blood on the uniform, and the team elects not to substitute for the goalkeeper, (plays short) the team must still have one player dressed and designated as the goalkeeper. (Page 18, 3.3.2.D)
- 6) If a team does not have eleven (11) players but the minimum seven (7) players at the start of the game, additional players may enter the game during a dead ball as long as their names have been added to the team roster. (Page 17, 3.3.8)

#### Single Player from the Bench

Occasion		Check in	Beckoned	Single Player
Cautioned Player	Single Player	Yes - At the time of the incident	Yes	From the bench
In the case of misconduct, the player does not have to be replaced (the team may play short). In this case the replacement or re-entry can only come on the field at the next substitution opportunity for that team.				
Player must leave for communicable disease	Single Player	Yes - At the time of the incident	Yes	From the bench
In the case of an injury or communicable disease the player does not have to be replaced (the team may play short). In this case the replacement can only enter the field at the next substitution opportunity for that team or the injured player/communicable disease can re-enter at a dead ball.				

#### Unlimited Players from the Bench

Occasion		Check in	Beckoned	Unlimited
Between periods	Yes-either team	No	No*	From the bench
Goal is scored, Player is injured	Yes-either team	Yes	Yes	From the bench

#### Unlimited checked in Prior to Stoppage

Occasion		Check in	Beckoned	Unlimited
Goal Kick, Caution or Disqualification (Either team)	Yes-either team	Yes Prior to Stoppage	Yes	Checked in prior to Stoppage:
Player must leave for	Yes-either	Yes Prior to	Yes	Checked in prior to Stoppage:

communicable disease	team	Stoppage		
Bench personnel are cautioned or disqualified	Yes-either team	Yes Prior to Stoppage	Yes	Checked in prior to Stoppage:
Throw-in, Corner kick	Yes-team with possession**	Yes Prior to Stoppage	Yes	Checked in prior to Stoppage:

\* If the referee acknowledges the proper number of players on the field at the beginning of a period, that is an implied beckoning of all players.

\*\* The team not in possession of the throw-in or corner kick can substitute along with the substitutes of the team in possession of the throw-in or corner kick as long as they have checked in prior to the stoppage.