



CSOA Commissioner Guidance

SPRING 2022

2022 Back to the New Normal

NFHS Rule Changes

VHSL Guidance

Expectations

NFHS Rules Changes

This year only minor changes, overall the rules are getting closer to the Laws of the Game but there are subtle but important differences in focus and emphasis--High School sports are an extension of the class room.

4-2-10 NEW: Head coverings worn for religious reasons shall not be made of abrasive or hard materials; and must fit securely.

4-2-11 NEW ARTICLE: In addition to the above permitted uses, state associations (or designee) may on an individual basis permit a player to participate while wearing a head covering for medical or cosmetic reasons if it is required by a licensed physician. A physician's statement is required before the state association can approve a covering which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play.

<https://youtu.be/3MT7jnrxdNI>

NFHS Points of Emphasis

Properly worn uniforms and properly marked fields – Put issues in game report, be proactive pregame

Reckless and Serious Foul Play – Reckless,- play without regard for risk to opponent – YC

- SFP – Disproportionate and unnecessary force in fouling an opponent while playing for the ball – RC
- **Communicate to players in pregame conference and during play. Let them know your expectations**
- **Take action immediately**

Sportsmanship

Professional Responsibilities for the Officials Be prepared mentally and physically, be fair, know the rules and mechanics.

VHSL Guidance

We use the NFHS Rule Book.

- Pandemic changes from 2021 are gone: Dropped ball is back, the wall is the wall, no sanitation breaks,
- Pregame conference with captains and coaches

Masks

- A referee may always chose to wear a mask.
- Players mask and social distance status is to be determined on a local level. This is a coach/administrator issue, not the referee's

Pregame

- It is at your discretion if you want to be in the center circle for introductions and national anthem

Postgame

- We leave, immediately. The school administrators are responsible

Commissioner's Expectations

Game reports: Done the night of the match, especially if there is an incident and/or a red card

- Use plain language and enough words so I can understand what happened without seeing it live.
- Reference the NFHS rulebook where appropriate
- Understand what the red card offenses are and use the correct words. Simple dissent is not a straight red card, foul and abusive language is red card (racist, derogatory terms on ethnic origin, sexual orientation are not tolerated).

Get the games played, safely

- Uniform issues (sock color, style) and jersey colors are not issues of player safety. Just inform the coaches, fix what can be fixed, and put it in the report.
- Most of you are not medical professionals. Error on the side of safety, especially with head/spine injuries
- Work with the administration on weather issues.

Commissioner's Expectations (2)

Follow the Points of Emphasis (POE)

If you want feedback on your performance, ask. We have skilled assessors and mentors

Have fun. If you are enjoying the game, so are the players.



**COMMONWEALTH SOCCER
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION**