



NCAA Soccer Rules Questions and Interpretations
2024 Season, Volume 4
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This update includes issues addressed up to October 10, 2024.

- 1. Video Review. Clarification of Availability of Equipment.** Rule 5.7.1 states “Video review will be used if the referee confirms that video review equipment is available.” The term available is hereby clarified as follows:
 - a. The video feed made available to the referee should also be made readily available to both teams. If specific equipment is required to view the video feed, then that equipment should be provided to both teams. The video feed must be available to both teams for the duration of the game.
 - b. It is recommended that when the game is broadcast on television or a streaming service, the host institution should make every effort to provide the video feed to the referee regardless of the platform being used provided that this does not cause any interruptions to the production of the broadcast.
 - c. If a game is being broadcast/streamed, then the broadcast/streamed feed is considered readily available to both teams without any further action required and each team will be responsible for accessing the broadcast/streamed video. If the broadcast/streamed video is a pay-per-view platform with a specific conference or institution, then the host institution should provide a free account to the visiting team at least 24 hours prior to the match and for the duration of the match if it is being used for video review.
 - d. Both head coaches and the referee shall meet at least 45 minutes prior to the match to confirm the video review that is place for the day and ensure both teams have access to all video that will be utilized by the referee. The referee has sole authority to confirm that both head coaches have access to all video that will be utilized and to confirm the video being used is available per the requirements herein. If the referee is not satisfied in any regard video review should be limited to what is available to both teams and useful for the referee or in the alternative video review shall not be used.
 - e. Video reviewed by referees must be made available for the use of the officials at a neutral site throughout the duration of the match. Under no circumstances should the officials enter one of the team areas to view a device there. The referee may use a device from one of the teams, but the actual review must take place in a neutral location outside the presence of both coaching staffs.

- 2. Coaches Outside the Team Area.** Rule 1.12.3 requires coaches to remain inside the coaching and team areas shall remain inside their coaching areas. An exception is provided for members of the coaching staff listed on the game roster to view the game from the press box or other suitable areas. Suitable areas include press boxes or suites that are not open to the general public. While in these areas, coaches may communicate with the rest of their staff. They may not address officials from these areas. The intent of this exception is to allow coaches to view the game from a different perspective in order to inform coaching decisions. Simply relocating a few rows back in the stands does not meet the spirit of the rule.

- 3. Post Ejection Misconduct.** Under normal circumstances, individuals can only earn one red card in a match. However, if, after being issued a red card, an individual engages in further misconduct that would qualify as Violent Behavior II or Referee Assault, then officials should file two separate ejection reports, and both red card offenses would be punished appropriately. Abusive language or other misconduct that is used after an ejection should be documented on the ejection report, but is not grounds for a separate ejection report.
- 4. Violent Behavior II Definitions.** Officials need to be mindful of the correct definition of Violent Behavior II offenses. Here are some examples of ejection reports where the language used by the officials does not agree with the definition in the Rules Book.

 - “While tackling the ball, player X hit the opponent in the face with his shoulder using excessive force. The opposing player was knocked unconscious as a result of the contact.”
 - “At 82:43, #10 was fouled by an opponent. As the opponent stood up, #10 grabbed his jersey and pulled him to the ground. As the opponent was falling to the ground, #10 swung his right arm at the body of the defender with an open hand. With the opponent on the ground, #10 stood over the defender and lowered his face toward the defender and yelled at him. #10 was shown a red card and ejected for Violent Behavior II.”
- 5. Players Temporarily Removed for Equipment Violations.** The rules were standardized this year for all equipment related issues. The penalty for violations of Rules 4.1.1 through 4.1.11, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, and 4.5.1 through 4.5.9 is consistent for all violations. If the ball is in play when the infraction is recognized, the referee shall stop the clock when the ball goes out of play and instruct the player to leave the field. If the team chooses not to substitute for the player, that player may only return to the game after the issue has been corrected, and must wait until at least the first stoppage of play after the game resumes in order to reenter.
- 6. Ethical Standards for Officials.** As part of eligibility for postseason assignments, officials are required to disclose affiliations that they or an immediate family member have with NCAA institutions. Examples include the official or immediate family member attending or being employed by an institution. This information should also be disclosed to assignors for regular season contests. Officials should strive to avoid perceived conflicts of interest or any situation that might call their ability to be impartial into question.