



2020 and 2021 Major Rules Changes for Men's and Women's Soccer

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Rule Change and Rationale</u>
1.12.4	<p>Members of the <u>official</u> coaching staff who are <u>eligible to participate</u> listed on the game roster and are on site are permitted to communicate with each other via electronic devices. As per Rules 12.7.4.1 to 12.7.4.10 PENALTLY and Rule 12.8.3, coaches ejected or serving a game suspension are not permitted to communicate with each other.</p> <p>Rationale: To allow members of the official coaching staff, per NCAA bylaws, to communicate with each other whether on-site or at another location. It is almost impossible to enforce this rule as currently written with today's technology.</p>
New 5.7.3.5	<p>To allow video review to be used to correct timing issues. Timing issues must be corrected at the next stoppage of play and before the next restart.</p> <p>Rationale: Timing issues can be a game critical event and easily corrected with the use of video review. This is the fifth situation that could be reviewed.</p>
5.8.1	<p>To limit a postgame protest to only situations involving (1) Player identification; or (2) Illegal participation by ejected or suspended student-athletes, coaches and team personnel.</p> <p>Rationale: Soccer is one of only a few sports that allows a postgame protest. While the protest rule was well-intended when it was implemented in 2007, over the years the process has been used to complain about the officiating in a game and question calls based on referee judgment. Prior to the 2019 season, the rules committee produced an educational video to remind the membership that protests may only be filed for specific reasons. Unfortunately, once again about 70 percent of filed protests were based on referee judgment and therefore not valid. Limiting the protest to only those situations listed above will still allow player eligibility situations to be corrected.</p>
9.3.2.1 through 9.3.2.4	<p>9.3.2.1 If play was suspended with the ball in the <u>goal penalty area</u>, it shall be dropped on that part of the goal area line that runs parallel to the goal line nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped <u>for the goalkeeper. If play was suspended with the ball outside the penalty area, it shall be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the point of the last touch.</u> The ball is in play when it touches the ground; however, if the ball is played before it touches the ground, the referee shall drop it again.</p> <p>9.3.2.2 In all cases, all the other players (of both teams) must be at least 5 yards away.</p>

	<p><u>9.3.2.3 If the ball touches the referee (or another match official) and goes into the goal, team possession changes or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded.</u></p> <p>9.3.2.4 In any instance when play is restarted with a free kick, the ball must clearly move as a result of the first player touching the ball to be in play.</p> <p>Rationale: To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game and add consistency at the various levels of play.</p>
<p>New 12.1.7.1</p>	<p>Delete current 12.1.7.1 and replace with the following: <u>It is an offense if a player gains possession or control of the ball after it has accidentally touched their hand or arm and then immediately: (1) scores in the opponents' goal; (2) creates a goal-scoring opportunity; or (3) scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand or arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper.</u></p> <p>Rationale: To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game and add consistency at the various levels of play.</p>
<p>New 12.7.4.2.2, new 12.7.4.2.3 and 12.7.4.9.1</p>	<p>Redefine the fighting rule and create a violent behavior I and II red card to better categorize violent actions. The penalty for a violent behavior I red card remains an immediate ejection and one-game suspension. The penalty for both a fighting and violent behavior II red card is an immediate ejection and a two-game suspension.</p> <p><u>12.7.4.2.2 Violent behavior I. Unwarranted excessive force when not challenging for the ball. PENALTY – Immediate ejection and one-game suspension.</u></p> <p><u>12.7.4.2.3 Violent behavior II. Unwarranted excessive force which is so extreme and severe that it places a participant in danger of physical injury. These acts include, but are not limited to, head butting, elbow to the face or head, stomping, kicking a defenseless person, hair pulling. PENALTY – Immediate ejection and two-game suspension.</u></p> <p>12.7.4.9.1 A fight is defined as a deliberate strike or punch or an attempt to strike or punch another player, official, coach or bench personnel. These acts include, but are not limited to, kicking, head butting, hair pulling or an open-handed strike if done deliberately and in a malicious manner. PENALTY – Immediate ejection and two-game suspension.</p> <p>Rationale: Violent acts such as head butting, elbow to the face or head, stomping, etc. were previously categorized as fighting, but have been recategorized into a violent behavior II red card with the same penalty (immediate ejection and two-game suspension). By recategorizing these acts into a violent behavior II red card, fighting is</p>

	<p>now more traditionally defined and will hopefully cause less confusion.</p>
13.2.2 and 13.2.3	<p>13.2.2 ...been touched or played by another player. <u>Where three 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. An attacking player could not participate in a wall with the opposing team. If, when a free kick is taken, an attacking team player is less than 1 yard from a wall formed by three or more defending team players, an indirect free kick is awarded.</u></p> <p>13.2.3 When a free kick is awarded to the defending team in the penalty area, the ball is not in play <u>once the kick is taken; it can be played before leaving the penalty area</u> until played beyond the penalty area.</p> <p>Rationale: To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game and add consistency at the various levels of play.</p>
14.2.3	<p>Until the ball is kicked, the opposing goalkeeper shall remain on the goal line <u>with at least part of one foot touching or in line with the goal line</u>, facing the kicker, and between the goal posts <u>without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net, and</u> is permitted to move laterally (that is, from side to side) but shall not step or lunge forward.</p> <p>PENALTY – First offense – warning; second offense – caution; third offense – second caution (ejection/red card).</p> <p>Rationale: To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game and add consistency at the various levels of play.</p>
16.2.1, 16.2.2 and 16.2.3	<p>16.2.1 Delete and replace with: <u>The ball is in play once the kick is taken; it can be played before leaving the penalty area.</u></p> <p>16.2.2 Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the goal kick shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball <u>is kicked goes over the penalty area line after the kick has been take, or the kick shall be retaken.</u></p> <p>16.2.3 The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his or her hands from a goal kick. The goalkeeper cannot pick up the ball and kick it. The ball must be placed on the ground and kicked from there.</p> <p>Rationale: To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game and add consistency at the various levels of play.</p>