



Major Changes for the 2016 and 2017 Men's and Women's Soccer Rules and Interpretations Book

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 2016 and 2017 seasons.

Rule 1.8	<p>Allows institutional, conference or NCAA name or logo on corner flags.</p> <p>Rationale: Permits promotional opportunities which are already available in other areas of the venue.</p>
Rule 1.10	<p>Allows institutional, conference or NCAA name or logo on goal nets.</p> <p>Rationale: Permits promotional opportunities which are already available in other areas of the venue.</p>
Rule 4.2.4 new	<p>Requires visible undergarments worn under the jersey or shorts to be a solid color, and the same color must be worn by all team members wearing undergarments. Recommend that the undergarment match the dominant color of the respective garments (jersey or shorts).</p> <p>Rationale: Makes the entire “uniform” consistent in color to avoid confusion and assist referees.</p>
Rule 4.2.5	<p>Requires players warming up outside the coaching and team areas to wear colored jerseys/vests that distinguish them from all other field players. (Previously a recommendation).</p> <p>Rationale: Requires substitutes to be clearly identified to avoid misidentification and confusion with field players.</p>
Rule 5.6.9	<p>Allows artificial noisemakers to be used during the run of play which do not interfere with the administration of the rules of the game. Electronic amplifiers, bull horns, air horns and whistles shall not be permitted. Institutional bands and amplified music will continue to only be permissible during pregame, period intervals, and anytime the clock is stopped and the ball is not in play.</p> <p>Rationale: To enhance game atmosphere in a manner consistent with the sport throughout the world, encourage student involvement and increase attendance.</p>
Rule 5.7	<p>Video review is permissible (not required) in three specific situations. The use of video review must be agreed upon by both head coaches before the start of the game. During the game, video review can be initiated by the referee only. In order to use video review, the review equipment must be provided by the home institution and available at the scorekeeper's table or field level. Indisputable video evidence, in the judgment of the referee, must be present for the call on the field to be overturned. The three situations in which video review is permissible are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine whether a goal has been scored;2. Identify players for disciplinary matters; and3. Determine whether a fight occurred and identify all participants. <p>Rationale: Permits the referee to take advantage of technology to ensure the correct call is made in three limited, game-critical situations. Several other NCAA sports already allow video review and have similar requirements (e.g., review equipment stationed at field level, indisputable evidence required to overturn a call on the field, no minimum requirements relative to camera type, location, or number of cameras).</p>
Rule 6.3.4 and Recommended Timing Sheets	<p>Changes the time at which game rosters will be exchanged (30 minutes) and procedure for the coin toss (teams clear the field and captains and officials meet for the coin toss).</p> <p>Rationale: Administrative change to avoid interruption of pre-game warm-up activity.</p>
Recommended Timing Sheets	<p>Clarifies halftime should start immediately when the first half ends.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarification to correct local practices.</p>
A.R. 7.1.1.1	<p>Clarifies designated kickers are the only personnel permitted on the field and are required to be in the center circle during the taking of tiebreaker kicks. If a goalkeeper is a designated kicker, the</p>

	<p>referee shall be notified prior to the taking of the first kick.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarification to avoid confusion as to which players are permitted to participate in tie-breaker kicks.</p>
Rule 7.6	<p>Clarifies games suspended due to inclement weather must be restarted within three hours after the originally scheduled start time unless mutually agreed upon prior to the start of the game.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarification to avoid misinterpretation as to when the decision must be made.</p>
Rule 11	<p>The rule was re-written to be consistent with the terminology used in the FIFA laws regarding when: (1) the player is involved in active play and interferes with play or an opponent; (2) gains an advantage by being in that offside position; and (3) a player not being declared offside when receiving the ball from a deliberate play from a defender (except a save).</p> <p>Rationale: Verbiage and terminology changed to be consistent with the FIFA Laws.</p>
Rule 15.2	<p>Requires a defensive player to be a minimum of 2 yards from the touch line when a throw-in is attempted.</p> <p>Rationale: Sets an enforceable standard to avoid interference with the throw-in.</p>