



MEMORANDUM

August 5, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics,  
Senior Woman Administrators and Head Coaches.

FROM: John Trask, chair  
NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee

Ken Andres, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Soccer Playing Rules Reminders for the 2019 Season.

With the 2019 season rapidly approaching, please review the following information. As a reminder, the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee did not adopt the recent International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game changes for the 2019 soccer season.

**Hydration Breaks:** Effective with the 2019 season, when the WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is equal to or greater than 86 degrees Fahrenheit, hydration breaks of no less than two minutes around the 25-30-minute marks during the first half, and 70-75-minute marks during the second half are required. The WBGT measurements should be taken by appropriate host personnel before the game and again throughout the game. Appropriate host personnel will instruct the officials if the threshold for mandatory hydration breaks is met. The referee is responsible for informing the head coaches and implementing the hydration breaks. Additional hydration breaks are permissible at the discretion of the referee. Substitutions are permitted during hydration breaks in accordance with Rule 3.5. Additional information is in the 2019-20 rules interpretations available [here](#).

**Protests:** Please click [here](#) to view an educational video on protests. As a reminder, protests may only be filed for a misapplication of a rule of conduct that clearly has a direct impact on: 1) the outcome of the game; or 2) participant eligibility. Protests based on matters of referee judgment or the accuracy of a decision will not be considered.

**Penalties for Illegal Participation:** Pursuant to Rule 12.8, ejected and suspended personnel, including players, coaches and team personnel, cannot participate in the next regularly scheduled game(s) and suspensions carry over from the previous playing season. Depending upon the reason for the suspension, the suspension period may include more than one game. This rule also applies to transfer student-athletes.

As a reminder, the penalty on a head coach for participating or allowing an ejected or suspended player or assistant coach to illegally participate in a game was enhanced beginning with the 2018

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season. The enhanced suspension for the head coach applies in all instances when illegal personnel participates in a game, including red card or yellow card accumulation suspensions. Note that the appropriate penalty will be imposed regardless of the circumstances and even if the mistake was made unintentionally or if there was a lack of knowledge of the rules. To assist in ensuring ejections and suspensions are appropriately served, the NCAA Soccer Red Card Depository will continue to track red cards issued and send notifications to conferences and institutions alerting the conference commissioner, director of athletics and head coach when a red card has been issued. Division I conference soccer administrators are also included on the email.

Further, the institution has an obligation to exercise due diligence and accurately determine whether an individual is under a suspension which carries over into the 2019 playing season and ensure that any suspensions are properly served. There are multiple ways to investigate whether an individual is under a suspension, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Ask the individual directly.
2. Check the box scores from the final game of the previous season, which may have been at a different institution.
3. Check with the appropriate conference office. Conferences can check the NCAA Soccer Red Card Depository.
4. Check with the appropriate institutional sports information director or soccer administrator.

**Field Markings:** To accommodate multi-use fields, NCAA, team or conference logos, names or abbreviations, and non-commercial logos **are** permitted in the penalty area provided they do not obscure any required field markings. (See Rule 1.3.5)

**ArbiterSports Center Circle Registration:** Head coaches are encouraged to register for the ArbiterSports Center Circle website to view rules clarifications, announcements and interpretations issued during the season. Officiating updates and clarifications are also posted to Center Circle throughout the season. Registration continues to be free for all head coaches and can be accessed through the following steps:

1. Access Center Circle by clicking [here](#).
2. Click on the “Registration” tab.
3. Click on the “Coaches” icon.
4. Proceed through the registration process.
5. If you have any registration issues or questions, please contact ArbiterSports at [success@arbitersports.com](mailto:success@arbitersports.com).

Should you have any rules questions, please contact Ken Andres, NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Secretary-Rules Editor, at [kandres.ncaasre@gmail.com](mailto:kandres.ncaasre@gmail.com) or 856-816-1687.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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cc: Division I Conference Soccer Administrators  
NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee  
NCAA Registered Soccer Referees  
Selected NCAA Staff Members