

2025 PIAA SOCCER POSTSEASON BULLETIN



PHOTO BY: LEEANN BLASCOVICH

A FEW ITEMS TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW

The NFHS and the PIAA have not adopted the new IFAB rule regarding goalkeeper possession. In high school, the goalkeeper has 6 seconds once in possession to release the ball into play NOT the new 8 second countdown rule in the other rule governing bodies.

- As the weather gets colder please remind officials that players may wear hats (soft ski type caps) and they do not need to be the same color. If a player wears an undergarment under their jersey or shorts that extends outside the sleeve or below the short, they must be of a solid color and all of the same color for that team. The visiting team must wear a solid white jersey although the undergarment may be a color other than white and all must be the same color.
- Officials may be evaluated throughout the course of the post season play. Those doing the evaluations will be reminded to meet with the crews before and after the match. Officials should review the evaluation form which can be found on the PIAA website. All officials must dress alike. Please be sure to mirror all signals during the match. All three officials must mirror signals. Also be sure to maintain good eye contact among all members of the crew. If you have access to electronic headsets feel free to use them.
- Please be sure to remind the crews to check the fields and especially the goals before each match to ensure they are secured to the ground, and the nets are properly fastened. Officials must meet with the game site manager, and timer prior to the match. Each team should supply ball runners.
- Overtime procedures should be reviewed for both district/leagues play and for inter-district play. League and District overtime periods are 2x15 minute sudden victory before proceeding to penalty kicks. Inter-district matches are 2x15 minute sudden victory periods before proceeding to penalty kicks. Overtime at the State Championships are 2x20 minute sudden victory periods before proceeding to penalty kicks.



A FEW ITEMS TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW CONT.

- The Wilson Vivido Match Soccer Balls are the only balls that can be used in District matches and the inter-district matches. They will be supplied by the host game site manager. Please be sure to check the balls prior to each match and ensure the NFHS logo is on the ball.
- The Double Dual system of officiating will be used in all matches. Officials are reminded to rotate positions during each match.
- Remember that noise makers (except whistles), cheerleading, and band playing may occur during the run of play so long as they do not interfere with game management by the officials.

OVERTIME PERIODS

(2 x 15 MINUTE PERIODS DURING LEAGUE/DISTRICTS)

(2 x 15 MINUTE PERIODS DURING INTER-DISTRICTS)

(5 minute break at the end of regulation, flip coin prior to starting Overtime)

ALL OVERTIME PERIODS ARE "Sudden Victory"



TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

If the game is tied at the end of the two Overtime Periods:

KICKS FROM THE MARK- (The Head Referee will select the goal where the kicks will be taken) A copy of the penalty kick scorecard is attached.

TAKING THE KICK

- Any player on the roster (who has not been disqualified) is eligible to participate (Flip a coin, the winner shall have a choice of kicking first or second)
- The coach will select 5 eligible players to participate in the 1st set of kicks.
- ANY player receiving a caution within the last 5 min of the second overtime period OR in the interval between the end of OT and the start of the kicks, will NOT be permitted to participate in the 1st set of kicks (5 kicks).
- The cautioned player IS allowed to participate in the 2nd set of kicks (if necessary).
- Any player (including the goalkeeper) cautioned during the first round of PK'S and/or during any subsequent round of PK'S will sit out all of the remaining PK'S
- If a goalkeeper is cautioned during the taking of ANY SET of 5 kicks, a substitute is permitted for the goal keeper, and the cautioned Keeper will sit out all remaining PK's
- If any player is disqualified RED CARD (including a goalkeeper) that player may no longer participate, but a substitute is permitted if their kick has not yet been taken. The disqualified goalkeeper may be replaced.
- IF THE SCORE REMAINS TIED AFTER THE FIRST FIVE KICKS:
 - The coach will select 5 different eligible players to participate in Sudden Victory kicks. (ONLY if a team has less than 10 eligible players, may a player who has already participated kick again.)
 - If the score remains tied after the second set of 5 kicks, continue the sudden victory kicks with the coach selecting ANY 5 players to participate in the continuation of sudden victory.
 - There is no follow-up kick. The kick is over once the ball's momentum is spent, it goes out of bounds, or it is touched a second time by the kicker.



SITUATIONS

During kicks from the penalty mark/spot tiebreaker procedure, #10 approaches the penalty area as it is her turn to shoot. As she nears the penalty spot to place the ball, the referee notices that she has removed her shin-guards.

Assume it is FIRST 5 PK takers what happens?

First Yellow for Equipment for this team.....earrings, shinguards etc..... Coach gets YELLOW....What happens to kicker? THE KICKER MUST LEAVE AND CORRECT THE SITUATION AND CAN RETURN AS THE 5th KICKER IN THE ROTATION ASSUMING SHE WAS NOT THE 5th KICKER. IF SHE WAS THE 5th KICKER SHE WOULD NEED TO LEAVE AND CORRECT THE EQUIPMENT ISSUE BEFORE RETURNING TO TAKE THE KICK.

Coach already issued YELLOW for equipment..... First YELLOW for Player. What happens to kicker? THE KICKER IS NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE THE PENALTY KICK AND MUST BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER MEMBER FROM THAT TEAM. THIS PLAYER MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY REMAINING KICKS FROM THE MARK IN THIS MATCH.

Player already has a YELLOW....issued second YELLOW....and SOFT RED.....Player now DQ'd....where does Replacement fit into PK ORDER? THE PLAYER MUST BE REPLACED AND ASSUMING THEY ARE NOT THE 5th KICKER THE REPLACEMENT WOULD BE THE 5th KICKER IN THAT ROTATION.



NOTES REGARDING DISQUALIFICATIONS

As we near the postseason it becomes doubly important, the situations potentially involving a disqualification are adjudicated correctly. If in doubt, confer with a partner(s). If criteria for a supplemental disqualification are met, submit it as such and remember to check the supplemental DQ box.

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