Rule 1 - The Field of Play

Rule 1: Are artificial grass-like fields, or turf, accepted surfaces for hosting postseason play?

Response: Yes, turf and artificial grass surfaces are acceptable to host NCAA postseason play.

Rule 1.1.1 and 1.1.2: If the playing field is not the specified size, what happens? What is the process?

Response: Please see Rule 1.1.1 and 2, and the note appearing there under. Absent an agreement in advance, you are not required to play the game on a field which is not in compliance with Rule 1.1.1. However, if you do play the game, any objection is waived.

Rules 1.2 and 1.3: What should be used for lining a field, if a turf field is rented as home field and it is not lined?

Response: Per Rule 1.2, the field shall be marked with distinctive lines in accordance with the diagram on Page 8 of the NCAA Rules Book, or the game shall not begin. The requirement of Rule 1.3 is that all lines must be clearly marked and be done in a manner that is not dangerous. Temporary field markings such as a spray or chalk like material are permitted, long as the material used is not dangerous.

Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4: Must the center line on a new soccer field go all the way through the logo of our mascot which is painted in the center circle? As it is now, the center line stops on either side of the mascot image, but must the line be visible all the way through? If so, can a dotted line be used through that part of the image to indicate the center line?

Response: Your inquiry implicates NCAA Soccer Rules 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. All field markings must be the same width and shall be clearly marked. The halfway line, to which you refer "shall be marked out across the field of play". Moreover the center of the field shall be indicated by a suitable mark..." In summary, you must have a solid halfway line, which must be visible and covers the entire field. The only alternative is to mark the field, properly, by using temporary materials which meet the above requirements for college soccer games.

Rule 1.4: We are adding soccer beginning next fall and are currently in the process of building our new facility. We will be installing artificial turf and are currently looking at renderings of the school logo for the field. Do we need to have the center line continue uninterrupted across the field? I have some seen photos of some soccer fields that do break the line for their logo, but I wanted to make sure while we're building a new facility we follow the rule correctly. I would appreciate your feedback regarding whether the logo and field lines on the attached rendering would be within rules or if any changes or necessary.

Response: The halfway line must be marked out across the entire field of play. It is illegal to break the line.

Rules 1.12 and 1.15: In soccer stadiums, can the team and coaching area be on the same side of the field as spectators, as long as there is a 20-foot barrier? Is it a mandate that team benches and bleachers are on opposite sides of the field from each other?

Response: Yes, this is permissible. There is no requirement that team benches and bleachers be on opposite sides of the field.
**Rule 1.12.2:** As site designers specializing in athletic fields, we are hoping you can help clarify if there is any NCAA regulation that states a minimum clearance outside of the field’s boundary line? In the 2010-2011 rule book there is a 20-ft spectator restraining line, but does this include all other objects as well, OR is there a separate dimension explicit for objects? For instance, at the high school level there is a 10-foot minimum distance from the boundary line to “spectators, fencing or any object.”

**Response:** There is no NCAA rule that tracks the broad language referenced in the high school rule. However, the NCAA has historically referenced Rule 1.12.2 that requires team benches be at least 10 feet from the touch line, and Rule 1.14 that requires the same for scorekeeper's tables, as setting the minimum distance for all objects. Unfortunately, Rules 1.12, 1.13, 1.14 and 1.15 are administrative rules that can be altered by prior mutual consent.

**Rule 1.15:** I have a question related to the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Soccer Rules and Interpretations book. Our soccer venue on campus has somewhat limited space on the sideline area between the bleachers for the fans and the actual playing field. It is my understanding from our athletics facility operations staff members, that the space at the closest point is 10’ from the sideline to the spectator restraining line and at its widest point is only 14’ from the perimeter of the playing field to the deepest location of the spectator restraining line.

Per Rule 1.15 related to the spectator restraining line, it states that “it is recommended that a rope, fence, or some form of demarcation be used to keep spectators a minimum of 20 feet [6.10 m] (whenever possible) away from the touch lines and goal lines.” We used a netting system the last several years, and this system needs to be replaced.

We are considering purchase of vinyl branded fence for use on our soccer field. We believe that based on the aforementioned rule that we would be within the NCAA playing rules if we were to purchase such a fence and place it around the entire perimeter of our playing field (noting that we will be closer than 20’ from the touch lines and goal lines in some areas just due to the physical layout of the facility). Please confirm that you are in agreement with our thoughts on this matter, as we don’t want to purchase any sort of product that would violate NCAA playing rules.

**Response:** The NCAA Soccer Rules do not require or mandate specific dimensions that address your inquiry. While the rules do contain specific requirements regarding dimensions for the actual field of play, they do not mandate specific dimensions or distances outside the field of play. Moreover, the rules do not address the use of fencing.

Your reference to R.1.15 dealing with the spectator restraining line is a good analogy. However, you will note that it is a “recommendation” to keep spectators a minimum of 20’ from the field of play. The rules committee has not mandated anything in this area because of legitimate issues regarding the available space for soccer facilities and expense in requiring compliance.

In short, I submit that the issue is one of player safety that must be determined on a case-by-case basis by the institution in accordance with state law. The law in most states will require an analysis of: (1) whether or not you afford a reasonably safe distance between the playing surface and the fence; and (2) whether or not the fence itself is reasonably safe for use as a barrier surrounding a soccer field. I understand that you are seeking a more definitive response, but there simply is none.

**Rule 2-The Ball**

**Rule 2.2:** Our soccer ball supplier is looking to send us the Wilson NCAA Forte FYbrid Optic Green version game ball for use during all games of our men’s and women’s conference championships. The NCAA Soccer handbooks note that this ball is approved by the NCAA for games played in inclement weather, but are they approved for use in all games?
Response: Rule 2.2 states the balls shall be identical in size, make, grade and color.

**Rule 3-Players and Substitutes**

**Rule 3:** Are substitute players required to be seated or just required to remain in the team area? Are substitute players required to wear something over their jersey to be distinguished from players?

Response: Substitutes are not required to be seated, but are required to remain in the team area. It is preferable for substitutes to wear something that distinguish them from field players, but it is not required.

**Rule 3.4:** When a player is ejected (not the keeper), are substitutions allowed (similar to when a player is cautioned), or are no substitutions allowed per the rule regarding keeper ejections?

Response: See Rule 3.4. A field player ejection is not a substitution opportunity.

**Rule 3.4.7:** In the case of a goalkeeper being ejected, his or her team shall play short, and the coach may substitute for the ejected goalkeeper only. If a substitution is made, a field player shall be removed and the opposing team shall not substitute at that time. If the above situation occurs in the first half, may the field player that is removed re-enter in the first half as a substitute?

Response: In this instance, the field player has been removed. He/she has not been substituted for and may re-enter the game.

**Rule 3.4, 3.6.1:** Team A has three players checked in and standing at half-way line. Team B has injury as ball goes out for Team B corner kick. Team B decides to substitute for the injured player from the bench. Is it mandatory that Team A send in one of the players when the a sub comes from the bench for injury to Team B? If the coach of Team A chooses not to sub during the corner kick, which player is charged with the sub?

Response: This is a valid substitution opportunity as per Rule 3.4. I interpret Rule 3.4 and Rule 3.6.1 to require one player to substitute or he/she will be charged.

**Rule 3.5.1:** Is a player who is replaced in the first overtime period NOT allowed to compete in the second overtime period?

Response: Please see Rule 3.5.1 and A.R. 3.5.1.a. A player replaced in the first overtime period may participate in the second overtime period. However, there is no re-entry in the same overtime period.

**Rule 3.5.3.2:** This rule says, "Players with a bleeding injury, blood on the uniform or signs of a concussion shall be substituted for . . ." Is this an error, or is the team not allowed to play short in these situations? While there is no down side to substituting, since they would not be charged with a sub in these situations, what if a team only has 11 members who are able to play present?

Response: It is not an error. Rule 3.5.3.2 requires a substitution in order to ensure appropriate time for medical evaluation. As you observed, there is no downside as it is a "free substitution." If a team has 11 or fewer players available, there can be no substitution.

**Rule 3.5.3.2:** Regarding the last sentence of Rule 3.5.3.2 ("However, if the injured player replaces a player other than the original substitute, that player shall be charged with a substitution.") the words "that player" in the last part of the sentence refers to which player - the previously injured player or the one he is substituting for (not the original substitute)?

Response: The player he is substituting for (not the original substitute).
**Rule 3.6.2:** “During the final five minutes of the second period only, if the leading team makes a substitution, the referee shall signal the clock to be stopped and beckon the substitute onto the field.” What if both teams want to sub?

**Response:** If the winning team substitutes in the last five minutes of regulation play, the clock stops. It does not matter if the losing team also substitutes or who initiated the substitution process.

**Rule 3.6.3:** “If the game is tied or the losing coach chooses to substitute, the clock shall not be stopped.” Does this mean the clock does NOT stop for losing team substitutions?

**Response:** Pursuant to Rule 3.6.3, if only the losing team substitutes, the clock does not stop.

**Rule 4-Players' Equipment**

**Rule:** Would it be permissible for a soccer team to wear pink shirts during a game for breast cancer awareness?

**Response:** Pink jerseys may be worn during a game for breast cancer awareness. Jersey number requirements must be followed, and no breast cancer awareness logos may appear on the jersey.

**Rule 4.1.1:** Our men’s program would like wear an arm band during games in memory of our head coach’s son that passed away from cancer this past year. Would an orange arm band with words of remembrance be allowable?

**Response:** It is legal pay honor with: 1) a commemorative patch on the uniform shirt that complies with the standards established in R.4.1.1; or (2) wristbands.

**Rule 4.2:** Are the white jerseys in NCAA rules different from the NFHS rules that state clearly that the white jersey MUST be completely ALL white except for the school name and numbers?

**Response:** There is no NCAA rule regarding white uniforms. Rule 4.2 refers to matching uniforms, with the additional requirement that the jerseys and stockings be in clear contrast to those worn by the opponent.

**Rule 4.2:** I am curious to know if we wear all cardinal tops and bottoms, can we wear grey socks?

**Response:** Yes, that combination is permissible per Rule 4.2.

**Rule 4.3:** Are numbers required on both the front and the back of each player’s jersey? Would it be permissible to have the number on the player's shorts in the front and back of the jersey?

**Response:** Per Rule 4.3, numbers are still mandatory on the front and back of all jerseys.

**Rule 4.5:** In regards to the rule pertaining to heart monitors, how is use monitored? Does this mean that no analysis of data can even be looked at until after the game unless verified as medically necessary? Also, what procedure or documentation is required to verify as medically necessary? Would medical necessity have to be confirmed and verified prior to the game? Could a physician confirm necessity during a game if concerns arise?

**Response:** Data accumulated from monitoring devices is not to be reviewed or monitored during the game. The only exception is for medical necessity, which must be confirmed by a physician. This should be verified prior to the game, but a physician can also confirm necessity during a game if concerns arise.
Rule 4.5.1-5: In the rule book, officials are given the authority to have articles that may be considered dangerous to players removed, or to allow such articles. In regards to a molded mask with no protrusions, used to protect a facial injury, what are the limitations or expectations?

Response: Per Rules 4.5.1-5, there is no per se prohibition against a player wearing a protective face mask. However, each piece of equipment must be evaluated by the referee on a case-by-case basis. If the referee in his/her opinion deems the equipment to be dangerous and likely to cause injury, it is not permissible. The rules committee recognizes that situations vary based upon the construction of the protective equipment and it cannot create a definitive list of what is permissible and/or impermissible. Simply put, the referee has to make the decision on site.

Rule 4.5.1b: If a referee asks a player to leave the field to correct his/her shinguards, when does the player return to the game?

Response: The player sent off the field for an equipment issue (non-jewelry) may return at any stoppage when the ball is not in play.

Rule 4.5.6: In regards to the rule allowing players to wear data accumulation devices, what would be an example of this type of device?

Response: The devices we initially considered which are already in use are heart rate monitors that may gather other physiological data and GPS tracking devices. However, we used generic language to permit technological advances that are not currently available.

Rule 4.5, 4.6: A player was recently observed wearing a clear, rubber stud-like item on their eyebrow. A blunt end protruded from above the eyebrow, a bar went through and there was another blunt end protruding just under her eyebrow. Both the player and coach stated the item was soft and specifically designed to be worn while playing sports. Is there such an item, and is it legal to be worn during competition?

Response: By rule, the decision as to whether or not this item is permitted is made on a case-by-case basis by the referee. Unless there is a medical reason for this, it sounds like it would be classified as jewelry and thus illegal, but would need to be seen. If it is not jewelry, the referee would need to determine if it is potentially dangerous and likely to cause injury, in which case it would be illegal for that reason.

Rule: We would like to wear wrist sweatbands with a teammate’s number on them to honor the player. Is this ok during games?

Response: The wristbands are legal.

Rule 5-The Referee

Rule 5.2.1: Are NCAA DIII soccer officials required to wear shoes?

Response: Yes, referees are required to wear shoes.

Rule 5.4.2: Does individual state legislation that clears officials from following the rule of “any player shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional” apply to NCAA matches played in these states? Can an official be liable should the coach have a player re-enter the match without knowing or having an appropriate health-care professional/team physician or his or designee at the site?

Response: Pursuant to Rule 5.4.2, officials are obligated to enforce the rules, without exception. Rule 3.5.3.2, which is a rule specifically designed for the safety of the players who may have suffered a concussion, is clear and must be enforced.

Rule 5.6.1: During a game, the coach is ejected and the team has no other coach or adult staff member available. Can the game continue? Who qualifies as an “institutional representative?” Can this be a student team manager?
Response: No, the game cannot continue and must be suspended by the referee, who shall report it to the governing sports authority. See A.R. 5.6.1.d. “Institutional representative” means faculty or staff member. A student manager is not permissible.

Rule 5.6.9: Are artificial noisemakers permissible when the ball is in play, unless the referee determines otherwise? Do home contest managers have the right to ban all artificial noisemakers from being used when the ball is in play? Can that be an institutional decision or do we have to be consistent with NCAC or NCAA guidelines? Are whistles, air horns, and electronic amplifiers not allowed at any time?

Response: Artificial noisemakers can be used while the ball is in play. Pep bands cannot play while the ball is in play. Conferences can adopt the "postseason" rule and prohibit the above on their own.

Rule 5.6.9: Can the school bands play during active play, dead ball situations, neither, or both?

Response: The bands can play during dead ball situations.

Rule 5.6.9: We are seeking clarification on what is meant "when the ball is not in play." Is this only pre- and post-game, halftime and time outs? Or does it include after goals are scored? Or when the ball is on the sidelines before throw-in? Or any other time?

Response: The ball is not in play when the clock is stopped.

Rule 6-Other Officials and Their Duties

Rule 6.3.8: Is it required that the last 10 seconds of the game be counted down to ensure that the horn goes off at zero?

Response: Please see Rule 6.3.8, which discusses the obligation of the timekeeper to count down the last ten seconds of each playing period.

Rule 6.4.5: Per this rule, to whom should the scoresheet be sent or where should it be uploaded?

Response: At the conclusion of the game, the official scorekeeper is required to obtain signatures of the referee and assistant referees on the official NCAA box score form or an 8½-by-11-inch computer-generated scoresheet with complete game information after the game is completed, thus verifying cards issued, ejection report(s) and the official score of the game. The official scorekeeper shall electronically file the complete box score with NCAA statistics for every game. (See Rule 6.4.5.) Each team is responsible for uploading a XML file of the box score on the NCAA stats site (http://web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrvc/login) for home games or contests at a neutral site or against non-NCAA opponents. Note that an electronic version of the score sheet with an official’s signature does NOT need to also be emailed/faxed to the NCAA.

Rule 7-Duration of the Game

Rule 7.1: If two teams agree to end the game early due to a very lopsided score, can they do that and will that affect the standings?

Response: This is not permissible. Pursuant to Rule 7.1, two 45-minute periods SHALL be played. The only exceptions involve an inability to proceed due to inclement weather, lighting, etc. The situation you describe would result in a "no contest." The only statistics that would count are cautions and ejections.

Rule 7.1: We have five national televised games this year and to my understanding we no longer need to take a media timeout at the under the 21 mark in each half. Is this correct? If so, can you send me any kind of language that I can pass onto the network?

Response: Please see Rule 7.1 indicating that a television time out is discretionary, not mandatory.
Rule 8-Start of Play

None

Rule 9-Ball In and Out of Play

Rule 9.3.2: When the clock is stopped for an injury, if there is clear possession by one team, is the restart an indirect free kick for that team? The rulebook specifies this clearly when a goalkeeper is in possession, but not as clear whether this applies to field players.

Response: No. It is not an indirect free kick. Please see Rule 9.3.2 regarding restarts. It is a drop ball, unless the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball at the time of stoppage.

Rule 10-Scoring

Rule 10.10: When a contest is suspended for whatever reason (i.e., equipment, weather, etc.) and cannot be resumed the same day but can be completed another day, does the contest restart or pick up where the suspension was called?

Response: A suspended game that has not reached the 70th minute must be completed the same day or replayed in its entirety. If the game has progressed into the 70th minute before the suspension of play, it is a completed game.

Rule 10.10: Can a conference adopt a policy that doesn’t follow this NCAA policy? For instance, if a game is suspended and not finished that same day and doesn’t reach the 70 minute mark, can the game be restarted the following day at the time the game was suspended (i.e., 58 minute mark) or must the game be started fresh the following day?

Response: The proposal is not permissible. The game must be replayed in its entirety.

Rule 10.11: Given the pressure within our conference to complete contests against the challenges of travel, it is both unfair and unsafe to have two teams play 60 minutes of a no contest Thursday only to turn around and play a 90-minute make-up Friday followed by another 90-minute regularly-scheduled conference contest Saturday. I think our coaches would argue for resumption of at least "out of pod" contests. Can the conference trump an NCAA rule on weather-related game suspensions?

Response: No. This rule deals with altering the timing restraints on same-day suspended games and cannot be altered despite mutual consent or conference policy.

Rule 11-Offside

None

Rule 12-Fouls and Misconduct

Rule 12: Are those players who are serving suspensions for red cards able to travel with the team to those games in which they are ineligible to participate?

Response: Rule 12 does not specifically address whether or not a student-athlete can travel while under a suspension from play - and certainly does not expressly prohibit traveling with the team. Absent an NCAA policy applicable to all sports addressing this issue, I believe the travel decision rests with the institution. However, a student-athlete under game suspension cannot dress, sit on the bench or participate in any team related activities upon arrival at the venue. The student-athlete is permitted to attend the game, but is restricted to the spectator area.

Rule 12.2.7: Under this rule, does action need to be deliberate or intentional?
Response: Yes, a handling offense must be deliberate or intentional.

Rule 12.5: When a team is leading a game in the last 5-10 minutes of a match and the losing team complains about time wasting on a restart of play, if the clock is stopped, am I required to caution a player from the leading team or can I just let the leading team restart the game and then start the clock? Does the referee have the authority to stop the clock without having to caution a player?

Response: The referee has the authority to stop the clock and does not have to issue a yellow card unless they believe the conduct is violation of Rule 12.5.

Rule 12.7.3: At half-time, a coach pulled his players away from the field for half-time instruction. He was livid with their play, and for the next 10 minutes he proceeded to unleash a profanity-laced tirade that was audible for all to hear. How should this language, when directed entirely at a coach’s own team, be dealt with?

Response: Please refer to Rule 12.7.3 and the two approved rulings interpreting same. There is no question that the described situation mandates a red card to the coach. It is irrelevant that the coach was speaking to his own players.

Rule 12.11.1: How many yellow cards can be accumulated prior to a game suspension?

Response: Please refer to Rule 12.11.1. The player receives a one game suspension upon accumulation of a fifth yellow card.

Rule 12.11.1: If a player has accumulated 4 yellow cards and 1 red card, if they receive a yellow in the next game (fifth card of the season), does this result in another one game suspension? Does having a previous red card affect this rule?

Response: If your player receives another yellow card, that will be his fifth accumulated yellow card, which is a one game suspension by rule. It is not a red card and is not affected by the previous red card.

Rule 12.11.1: If an assistant coach receives a red card, what restrictions are placed on him/her? Can he/she be involved in everything (pregame talk, warm-up) up until the start of play? Once the game starts, he/she must then have no contact with players and be in a designated spectator area, correct?

Response: This is correct. He/she may be involved in everything up until the start of play, but when the clock starts, they can have no contact with the team and must be located in a spectator area.

Rule 12.11.2: Can we please get an official confirmation on the following regarding card accumulation? A student-athlete had 4 yellow cards going into the end-of-season conference tournament. In the tournament she picked up her 5th yellow card. Since the tournament is considered postseason, she does NOT have to sit out a match, because the accumulation rule allows for a total of eight cautions before an ejection in the postseason (A.R. 12.11.2a).

Response: Correct, the student-athlete is eligible pursuant to Rule 12.11.2.

Rule 12.11.11: Can a player who is serving a red card suspension carried over from the previous season sit on the team bench or does he need to be in the stands?

Response: Per Rule 12.11.11, the player is restricted to a designated spectator area and prohibited from any contact with the team from the start of the contest to its completion. The player cannot sit on the bench.

Rule 12.12.1 and A.R.s 12.12.1 a, b and c: As an NCAA institution, do red card suspensions and yellow card accumulation suspensions count if used against non-NCAA teams? For example, could an NCAA Division II team schedule a random NAIA game as their last regular-season game and have players that have four yellow cards get a fifth yellow card on purpose in their second to last game so that the player sits out the last regular-season game against the NAIA opponent and are then eligible to play in their first postseason game? Or do suspensions need to be served
in NCAA games? If this is the case, something needs to be addressed in the future, as there has been a lot of talk among coaches about teams scheduling random games that don’t count against them late in the season to allow for players to serve suspensions before important conference games and playoffs.

Response: No. Rules referenced define regular-season games and prohibit the hypothetical scenario.

Rule 12.12.1: Do disciplinary actions from spring matches that are not exhibitions or scrimmages carry over? For example, if a student-athlete is ejected from a spring match for fighting, are we to report it to our assignor and/or the conference?

Response: Pursuant to A.R. 12.12.1.c, these are not regularly scheduled games and the disciplinary cards and suspensions do not count. Therefore, you are not required to report them. However, there is nothing that prohibits you from informing your assignor and the conference if you think it is appropriate to do so under the circumstances.

Rule 12.12.1: Where are ejected individuals able to be located during play? Must they be out of sight and sound of the field of play?

Response: Please refer to Rule 12.12.1 and the rule change that permits the ejected individual to be placed in a designated spectator area where he/she can be monitored by school personnel when there is no one to accompany and supervise the individual in a location "out of sight and out of mind."

Rule 12.12.1: Both the women’s and men’s teams at an institution have the same coach, who is ejected during the first game of a double header. There is no other coach or adult available to take their place, can the ejected coach manage the second game or would they need to sit out the second of the double header as their suspension? How would the game be recorded?

Response: If the coach is ejected during the first game, which is a women's game, he/she is suspended for the next regularly scheduled women’s game. The coach would be permitted to participate in the next regularly scheduled men’s game, regardless of when it is played.

Rule 12.12.1: A player received a red card (two yellows) in the last game of last season. Does that player have to sit one or two games this coming year?

Response: Per Rule 12.12.1, this individual is not eligible to participate in the next two regularly scheduled games following his second red card. Despite the fact that the second red card occurred in the final game of the 2011 season, the penalty carries over into the 2012 season.

Rule 12.12.1: In terms of red card suspensions carried over from last season, does it make a difference if an institution was NAIA last year and now has joined NCAA Division I, II or III?

Response: Since the NAIA and the NCAA play by the same rules, the suspension would apply to this individual.

Rule 12.12.1: If a player received two yellow cards in the final contest of last season, must they sit out the first game of the current season? If they do not sit, what is the process of what must happen next? If the game in which they played is forfeit, do the statistics from that contest count?

Response: Pursuant to Rule 12.12.1, a player ejected from the last game of the season (two yellow cards issued), cannot participate in the first regularly scheduled game of the next season. If the player participated in the next regularly scheduled game, that game shall be declared a forfeit. Moreover, pursuant to the 2012 addition to Rule 12.12.1, the original term of the suspension shall be doubled for that player (now 2 games instead of 1) and the head coach shall be suspended for the same term of suspension. See Page 62 of the 2012-2013 Rules Book. The statistics from this game, however, WILL count.

Rule 12.12.1: "If the first fighting offense in a season occurs after any nonfighting ejection, the fighting offense, along with the necessary two-game suspension for a previous red card, shall
carry an additional game suspension (for instance, three games).” Does this indicate that, in this instance, a total of three games should be applied?

**Response:** Assuming the player was previously issued a red card pursuant to Rule 12.3 before the game in which the fight occurred, he/she is now ineligible to participate in the next three (3) regularly scheduled games. The rationale is a one (1) game suspension for the second red card of the season, plus a two (2) game suspension for the fighting offense.

**Rule 12.12.1:** A player received his second red card last season in the conference tournament semifinal game. Obviously he was ineligible to play the final and sat out that game. Because it was his second red card in a season does he have to sit out a game this fall? If so we play an exhibition game this Sunday night. Can that be the game or does it have to be a regular game?

**Response:** Pursuant to R.12.12.1, the player must serve a two game suspension for games that are regularly scheduled or postseason games. Those games would include the conference tournament final and the first regularly scheduled game of this season. Exhibition games do not count for suspension purposes. The player is ineligible to play in the first regularly scheduled game of the new season.

**Rule 12.14:** Rule 12.14 mentions that it is not permissible for a coach to provide coaching instruction to any player(s) while attending an injured player. That said, is it permissible for a team to come to the sideline for coaching instruction when the referee has stopped the clock for an injury and the trainer is out on the field but the coach has chosen to stay on the sideline?

**Response:** It is permissible for players to come to the touch line under the circumstances you describe, and the coaches can speak with the players. The difference is we do not want a coach who comes onto the field to attend to an injured player to gain an unfair advantage not available to the opponent. Under the circumstance you describe, both teams and coaches are on equal footing. Moreover, I don't know how we could practicably enforce a prohibition against speaking with your players when they come over for water, etc.

**Rule 12.14.3:** Based on what the note following this rule states, it appears to be acceptable for an AR to be approached in “a sporting and timely manner.” How should “timely manner” be interpreted? Does this refer to the interval between periods only? Also, in reference to the “coach,” must this be the head coach or is one of their assistants acceptable?

**Response:** The rule applies to any member of the coaching staff. Interpretation of the term "a timely manner" means when the ball is not in play.

**Rule 12.15:** A player received their fourth yellow card followed by a second yellow of the same game, which counts for one yellow and one red. This player then sat out the next game and currently has four yellow cards with one red card suspension. When this player receives their fifth yellow card do they sit for one or two games, since it will be the accumulation of a fifth yellow card?

**Response:** Please see Rule 12.15, Example B. This player shall sit one (1) game for accumulating five (5) yellow cards (Rule 12.11.1) and two (2) additional games for accumulating his second red card (Rule 12.12.1). In total, this player will incur a three (3) game suspension if he receives a fifth caution.

**Rule 13-Free Kicks**

None

**Rule 14-Penalty Kicks**

**Rule 14.3.2, 14.3.3:** If the goal keeper blocks the ball out of bounds, does this result in a goal kick or indirect kick at point of infraction?
Response: This would be a goal kick.

Rule 14.2: The rule book does not require that the person taking the penalty kick in regular time has to indicate to the referee that they are taking it. For example, could #4 put the ball down at the spot, but then #10 run up and kick it.

Response: The person taking the penalty kick must be identified by the referee before the whistle is blown to take the kick and "trickery" or unsporting conduct is not permitted. The mere fact that the ball is placed at the spot by one player does not require that he/she take the kick, as long as there is no deception.

Rule 15-The Throw-In

Rule 16-The Goal Kick

None

Rule 17-The Corner Kick

None