

MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN



Welcome to the 2019-20 Boys Soccer season. A few reminders from things encountered the first couple of weeks:

Second Yellow Cards

If a player receives a second yellow, they are disqualified and his team plays short for the remainder of the game. However, there are some instances when a player already with a yellow card accessed to him is substituted, and then receives another yellow while on the sideline. While this would still result in the player's disqualification, since it did not occur with a player on the pitch, the team would not be required to play short-handed.

Ejected Personnel

Speaking of disqualifications, a player that is disqualified is allowed to remain on the team bench as long as he/she does not continue to be a disturbance. If he/she continues to be a problem after being ejected, he/she should be escorted from the playing surface by a coach or administrator. When a coach is disqualified from the contest, he/she must leave the site immediately and may not remain within sight or sound.

Penalty Kicks

Once the player starts his/her approach to the ball on a PK, he/she may not interrupt his/her movement. A stutter step is allowed as long as the referee believes the action of the kicker remains a continuous forward motion to the ball.

Drop Ball Situations

We've had a couple of issues with drop balls this year. First, please make sure to note the incorrect language in Rule 2-2-4, which indicates that a drop ball is between "any two opposing players." This language is not accurate as Rule 9-2-3 was changed to allow "any number of players" to contest a drop ball (including the goalkeeper).

Also, it is not a dropped ball situation if the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball at the time play is suspended. Remember that "possession" does not mean that the goalkeeper has the ball in his hands. If the goalkeeper has the ball at his feet at a normal playing distance, this should be considered possession. This would be an indirect kick, not a drop ball (13-2-3b).

Lastly, when a goalkeeper chooses to participate in a drop ball situation in the penalty area, he may collect the ball with his hands once it hits the ground. However, please caution the goalkeeper that this could potentially be a dangerous situation. By doing so, the opposing team could be awarded an indirect kick in the penalty box because of dangerous play.

Rules Review: After an inadvertent whistle with the ball in the goal area, a drop ball is ordered. On the drop, A3 plays the ball off the bounce and immediately kicks the ball into his own net.

Ruling: Since the dropped ball entered the net before being played by at least two players, the goal is not allowed. Since it was an own goal, it will be a corner kick for Team B.