



9/17/2025

## NFHS Soccer Weekly Rule Interpretations

**SITUATION:** A penalty kick is awarded to Team A. Team A has played shorthanded because of misconduct (down to 10 players). Before the PK is taken, Team A has an extra player on the field without permission. Team A takes the PK. Team A's extra player did not interfere with nor take the PK. No other infractions occurred during the PK and it was otherwise taken properly. The ball is put into play from the PK and immediately goes into the goal. **Before the kickoff**, Team B's head coach informs the referee about the extra player. The goal is not allowed and the referee awards Team B a goal kick. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Having an extra player on the field without permission is a form of misconduct (12-5-1a). Since this was discovered prior to kickoff then the goal is disallowed. The restart should be according to how the game was interrupted which is a goal kick for Team B and the extra person removed from the field of play. [12-5-1].

If after the PK and the game has already restarted, the referee realizes that an extra player was on the field of play when the goal was scored, the goal cannot be disallowed. If the extra player is still on the field the referee must stop play, have the extra player removed, and restart with a dropped ball or free kick as appropriate.

**SITUATION:** While inspecting the field before the game, the officials discover team areas are not marked. **RULING:** Cones or some other temporary marker should be positioned to adequately delineate the team areas before the game is played. **COMMENT:** The state association shall be notified if team areas are not properly marked. [1-5-1]

**12.5.1 SITUATION F:** After player A2 scores a goal, they celebrate with (a) several Team A players performing a choreographed dance; (b) A2 running off the field of play; (c) A2 leaving the field of play and jumping over spectator retaining ropes to join their fans; (d) A2 covering their face with their jersey; (e) A2 removing their shirt; (f) A2 jeering Team B's spectators; (g) A2 taunting Team B's bench personnel. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal; (c), (d), and (e) illegal – caution (yellow card); (f) and (g) illegal – ejection (red card). **COMMENT:** Players can celebrate when a goal is scored, but the celebration must not be excessive; choreographed celebrations, as in (b), are not encouraged and must not cause excessive delay of the restart. Leaving the field of play to celebrate a goal, as in (b), is not a cautionable offence, but players should return as soon as

possible. If leaving the field is prolonged or excessive, as in (c), or a player removes their shirt or covers their face with their shirt, as in (d) and (e), then the player shall be cautioned for unsporting conduct. If celebrations involve taunting, as in (f) and (g), then the offender is to be ejected and shown the red card per 12-6-1e(1).