

# National Federation of State High School Associations

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## 2003-2004 NFHS SOCCER INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

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SITUATION 1: Are goalkeepers permitted to wear plastic catcher's masks that are used in softball and baseball? RULING: No. (4-2-1[f])

SITUATION 2: Can a player whose name is not on the roster receive a yellow or red card? RULING: Yes. The player's name must be added to the roster. (3-3-3)

SITUATION 3: Can schools put players' names on the backs of their jerseys? RULING: Yes, as long as the name doesn't obstruct the player's number.

SITUATION 4: If Team A has 12 players on the field, to whom should the yellow card be given? RULING: Team A's coach. (12-8-4)

SITUATION 5: Is it permissible to use goal-post padding? RULING: Yes. Goal-post padding is legal, but not required, as long as it is padding that is manufactured specifically for goal posts.

SITUATION 6: Can schools purchase nets with the name or mascot of the school stenciled on it? RULING: Yes.

SITUATION 7: May soccer players tape socks? RULING: Yes, socks may be taped as long as the taping does not interfere with the predominant color of the sock and does not prevent shinguards from protecting the shin.

SITUATION 8: May a soccer game be played on a football field where all markings are in white? RULING: Yes. The NFHS, however, strongly recommends that the soccer markings contrast in color to the football markings. (1-2-1)

SITUATION 9: Are officials mandated by rule to use the official NFHS soccer signals in a contest? RULING: Yes.

SITUATION 10: When the entire team arrives at the contest wearing an illegal uniform, does the official have the authority to declare a forfeit? RULING: No. If a waiver from the state association is not available then the team must make every effort to make the uniform legal. The game will be played. After the game, the official must notify the state association of the illegal uniforms.

**SITUATION 11: Are padded headbands made of soft material legal for field players? RULING: Yes, as long as the product does not contain any hard or unyielding material.**

SITUATION 12: Are face masks designed to protect a broken nose legal? RULING: No. (4-2-1).

SITUATION 13: Is it legal to wear a guard over eye glasses? RULING: No. (4-2-1)

SITUATION 14: Can players use prewrap as a hair-control device? RULING: Yes, if not tied in a knot. (4-2-2)

SITUATION 15: Are warm-ups with multiple logos permitted to be worn by bench players or coaches? RULING: Yes. (4-1-1)

SITUATION 16: May a player wear socks with more than two logos on each sock? RULING: No. (4-1-1)

SITUATION 17: May jewelry be worn if it is taped to the body and worn under the uniform? RULING: No. Religious medals must be taped to the body and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped to the body and may be visible. (4-2-4)

SITUATION 18: During the regular season, may one state have different tie-breaking procedures than another? RULING: Yes. Each state may have its own overtime and game-ending procedures. (7-3-1)

SITUATION 19: May a state have different tie-breaking procedures during tournament play than during the regular season? RULING: Yes. (7-3-1)

SITUATION 20: May referees wear different colored shirts when working the diagonal system of officiating? RULING: No. All officials must be dressed alike in all systems of officiating. (5-1-3)

SITUATION 21: Is it permissible for officials to wear a shirt with the USSF logo on it? RULING: Only if permitted by the state association. (5-1-3)

SITUATION 22: In the process of taking a penalty kick, may a player stop abruptly in an attempt to fake the goalkeeper? RULING: No. Retake the kick. (14-1-4)

SITUATION 23: If a player is wearing shinguards no less than 2 inches above the ankle, are they legal even though the shinguard covers only half the shin? RULING: No. Shinguards must also be age-appropriate and provide adequate protection. (4-1-1)

SITUATION 24: Is it mandatory for the head referee to address coaches and players prior to the game about good sportsmanship? RULING: Yes. The NFHS has instituted this practice in all sports. (5-2-2).

SITUATION 25: If the home team cannot provide ballholders, should the referee ask the visiting team to provide ballholders? RULING: Yes. (6-1-1). SITUATION 26: May players other than the goalkeeper wear gloves? RULING: Yes, however, if in the opinion of the referee gloves are dangerous or confusing, they are illegal.