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NFHS to Penalize Players for Improper Shinguards

Source: NFHS.org

See entire release at http://www.nfhs.org/web/2008/03/players_to_be_penalized_in_high.aspx

Beginning with the 2008-09 high school soccer season, shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) standard. This risk-minimization rule was passed two years ago for implementation in 2007-08; however, the start-up was delayed one year to allow manufacturers another year to supply these types of shinguards to local equipment suppliers.

The new NOCSAE shinguards will be stamped or labeled with the NOCSAE logo. They will specify which size is correct for a particular-sized player, making it easy for players, coaches and officials to differentiate which shinguards are to be worn.

"This is a significant change as players no longer will be able to wear inappropriate, undersized shinguards," Koski said. "Shinguards need to be placed no higher than two inches above the ankle for safety purposes. This change should definitely minimize risk to players."

Effective with the 2008-09 high school soccer season, players will be penalized (yellow card) for subsequent violations of illegal equipment rules [not wearing a NOCSAE approved shinguard].

A change in the penalty for illegally equipped players was one of three rules revisions approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Soccer Rules Committee at its annual meeting January 27-28 in Indianapolis. The rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.