

# Points of Emphasis

1. Properly Marked Fields
2. Shared Professionalism and Bench Accountability
3. Managing Goal Celebration
4. Penalty Kick Offenses and the Concept of Impact
5. Identification of the NFHS Authenticating Mark on Game Balls



PLAY.  
PERFORM.  
COMPETE.  
TOGETHER.

## Rules Revisions

1. The home team must wear dark socks.
2. Appropriate tooth and mouth protector elements defined.
3. Athletes are prohibited from wearing audio or video devices while participating in a match.
4. Consistent officiating procedure terminology established when issuing yellow and red cards.
5. Clarifies when a kickoff should be retaken in situations when not all players are on their half of the field.
6. Safety emphasized when charging or challenging a goalkeeper in possession of the ball.
7. Biting added to the list of direct free kick fouls.
8. Goalkeeper possession time limit extended to eight seconds and penalty adjusted to a corner kick.
9. Considerations for dangerous play clarified.
10. Verbal offenses categorized as indirect free kick fouls to offer flexibility for officials when addressing this behavior.
11. The DOGSO ejection criteria has been simplified.
12. Rule 13 reorganized to offer clarity and guidance for free kick restart procedures in situations involving outside agents and offenses that occur outside the field of play.
13. Penalty kicks procedures adjusted, clarifying that encroachment is only penalized when it clearly impacts the kick outcome.

# SOCCER 2026-27

Sport image provided by XL Sports Photography, New Mexico.



**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

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