



2010

New Jersey State Interscholastic  
Athletic Association  
Rules Modifications and  
Approved Pre-Game Procedures

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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Pre-Game Meeting With Teams**

Based on feedback from Soccer Coaches across the State, NJSIAA is reinstating back the practice of bringing both Teams (players, bench personnel, and Coaches) to the center circle for the pre-game sportsmanship discussion and to inspect for unusual equipment (knee and ankle braces, thigh pads, face masks) to ensure that they are not dangerous.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Pre-Game Meeting With Captains/Coaches**

The Head Referee shall ask both Coaches if all players on their Team are legally and properly equipped to participate in the match. Note that the only acceptable answer is “Yes”, and that failure to answer in the affirmative will result in a forfeit.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Legally Equipped is Coach's Responsibility**

In concert with NFHS, NJSIAA continues to reinforce that **it is the Head Coach's responsibility to ensure that all players are legally and properly equipped before entering the field of play.** To that end **Officials shall not conduct pre-game shinguard inspections.** Note that NJSIAA has removed language associated with "65% coverage of the shin"; rather they are relying on the NOCSAE tag/stamp to validate age/size appropriateness.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Legally Equipped is Coach's Responsibility**

Officials shall inspect casts to ensure that they are properly padded, but **Doctor's notes are not required for Official's inspection.**



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**The Field of Play**

Coaches and Athletic Directors are reminded that under NJSIAA guidelines, **perimeter fencing to maintain a minimum 25 foot distance** between spectator areas and the playing field is required for all contests.



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### NJSIAA Rules Modifications

#### Face Masks

No change to the requirement that **ALL face masks must be inspected and approved by NJSIAA prior to their use** ... however, State Rules Interpreter Alan Brown has delegated inspection/approval authority to 3 other people throughout the State to help expedite the face mask approval process. Note that the **masks must be initialed by the inspector, accompanied by an approval note in NJSIAA letterhead, and accompanied by a Doctor's note approving of the Player's participation with the face mask.**



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### NJSIAA Rules Modifications

#### Duration of Game

State Tournament games suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play should be played to completion from the point of interruption. If the losing Team at the point of interruption does not want to return to complete the game, the game will be considered to be complete.



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### NJSIAA Rules Modifications

#### Player Concussions

NJSIAA's Concussion Modification overrides the NFHS Policy. NJSIAA Officials **SHALL NOT BE** rendering a decision as to whether a student athlete has exhibited or is exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion. Those decisions shall be made by a member of the Team coaching staff, athletic trainer, or physician employed by the school or school district. Note that, under NJSIAA policy, if a student athlete is removed from a game by a Coach/Trainer/Physician because he/she is exhibiting signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion, that student athlete **MAY NOT return to play AT ALL that day/night, NO MATTER WHAT.**



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Player Concussions**

**NJSIAA Officials SHALL DO the following:**

Upon observing a student athlete who has received a blow or contact to the face, head, back, and/or neck, and in the Official's judgment the student athlete is initially injured due to the blow or contact, the Official shall:

- Immediately stop the clock.
- Beckon the appropriate Coach/Athlete Trainer onto the field.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Player Concussions**

**NJSIAA Officials SHALL DO the following:**

Communicate to the Coach/Athletic Trainer "Your player took a blow to the head/neck/back that, in my judgment, may have caused the player to be injured. Please tend to your player." The Official(s) shall then step aside and manage the remaining players and bench personnel.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Player Concussions**

**Once the Coach/Athletic Trainer has been beckoned, the injured player MUST be removed from the field.** Upon tending to their player, if the Coach/Athletic Trainer has determined that the player is not injured or showing signs of a concussion, then the player would be eligible to return at the next legal substitution opportunity.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Fouls and Misconduct**

Cautions shall be issued for unsporting behavior; persistent infringement of the Rules; dissent of an Official's decision; use of incidental profanity or vulgarity; player/Coach/bench personnel leaving the field without permission; Coach guilty of player(s) being illegally equipped; use of video equipment to assist in coaching during the contest; and use of tobacco products at the game site. **Cautioned players must be removed from the game, and the Team MAY substitute for the cautioned player.**

The cautioned player may not return until the next legal substitution opportunity.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Fouls and Misconduct**

**Disqualification part 1** - Players, bench personnel, or Coaches guilty of flagrant physical or verbal misconduct (violent conduct; taunting; spitting at an opponent, teammate or game Official; serious foul play; use of insulting or abusive language; or leaving the Team area to enter the field to participate in a fight or altercation) **shall result in a STRAIGHT RED CARD disqualification,** including a two game suspension. The Official shall display the Red Card in one hand, signifying that the

**Team shall play short one person for each disqualification** for the rest of the game.



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**NJSIAA Rules Modifications**

**Fouls and Misconduct**

**Disqualification part 2** - A player who **intentionally handles the ball to deny it from entering the goal shall be disqualified from the rest of the match** (without subsequent game suspensions). The Official shall display the **Red Card in one hand and the Yellow Card in the other hand.** The number of players **shall be reduced** for the rest of the game.



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## NJSIAA Rules Modifications

### Fouls and Misconduct

**Disqualification** part 3 - Players, Coaches, or bench personnel guilty of excessive celebration or receipt of a second cautionable offense shall be disqualified for the rest of the game. The official shall indicate the disqualification by showing the **Yellow and Red cards simultaneously IN THE SAME HAND**. **The number of players SHALL NOT be reduced**, and the Team **MAY** substitute for the disqualified player.



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### NJSIAA pregame procedures

- In uniform at site minimum of 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time
- Meet with game management
- Head referee conducts a pregame conference with all officials

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### Head referee pregame procedures

- Inspect and approve game balls
- Inspect field, goals, nets, markings,
- Review duties of official scorer and timer
- Review responsibilities with ball holders
- Obtain team game rosters

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### Head referee pregame procedures

- Formal line up at center circle of all players and coaches
- Inspect all unusual equipment
- Inspect all casts – No Dr’s note required

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### Referees pregame procedures

- No shin guard inspection
- Address good sportsmanship
- Keep captains and head coach – dismiss the remainder of players and coaches

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### Head referee pregame conference with captains and head coach

- Review pertinent rules
- Inquire of coach if all players are properly and legally equipped
- Conduct a coin toss

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Any questions?

Blank lines for student responses.

Refresher Test Answers

Answer Key 2010-11 NFHS Soccer Rules Examination - Part I. Table with 4 columns of question numbers and multiple-choice options (A, B, C, D).



Blank lines for student responses.