



2022 and 2023 Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rules changes are effective with the 2022 season unless noted otherwise.

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Rules Language and Rationale</u>
3.2.1 Game Roster	Require the official NCAA game roster to be given to the scorekeeper only (rather than also the opposing coach and referee). Rationale: To streamline the game roster exchange.
3.6.3.5 Re-entry After Injury	Allow a player re-entering after illness/injury, who was not substituted for, to re-enter on the side of the field where they were removed (after being beckoned by the referee). Rationale: Currently, those players are required to re-enter on the bench side of the field, which could cause a delay in re-entering if they were removed on the opposite side of the field and cause security issues while walking to the other side.
5.2.1 Referee Uniform	Establish a uniform required to be worn by all referees by 2023. Rationale: Currently, the only requirement for the referees' uniform is that it is the same color and style for all officials. This has resulted in conferences establishing their own guidelines for what uniform shirt will be worn and, therefore, the necessity for officials to purchase in some cases up to five different uniform shirts. This rule would provide for a consistent look in uniform across NCAA soccer.
5.5.2 Postgame Duties	Allow the referee to verify the paper box score visually/verbally rather than requiring a signature. Rationale: This is the same process for verifying electronic box scores.
5.7 Video Review	Expand video review to include whether a foul occurred inside or outside the penalty area. Rationale: This situation could be a game critical event and easily corrected with the use of video review. This would be the sixth situation that could be reviewed.
5.8.1 Protest	Expand the postgame protest rule to include a review of violent behavior II and fighting red cards. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The protest, including video of the incident, must be filed within 48 hours of the completion of the game (same as other protests) and be submitted by the conference office or coordinator of officials.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope would be limited to changing a violent behavior II or fighting red card (two-game suspension) to a violent behavior I red card (one-game suspension). • A committee consisting of the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA National Coordinator of Soccer Officials and one NCAA Soccer Regional Advisor, who is not affiliated with the team, conference or region, will consider the protest and render a decision. <p>Rationale: Of the 1,300+ red cards issued across all divisions during the 2021 season, 150 were issued for violent behavior II or fighting. A portion of those, based on video evidence, were incorrect calls and resulted in over-penalizing student-athletes with a two-game suspension, which in most cases is 10% of the season. This postgame review of only those specific cards, similar to the process in NCAA football, will provide conferences with an avenue to ensure penalties are appropriate and fair based on the rules.</p>
<p>7.1.1 Overtime – Regular Season</p>	<p>Eliminate overtime during the regular season.</p> <p>Rationale: To align with IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game, reduce playing volume for student-athletes and place value on a tie. In data collected since 2013, 47% of overtime games are left tied at the end of the overtime periods.</p>
<p>7.1.1 Overtime – Postseason</p>	<p>Require both overtime periods to be played to completion during postseason (eliminate golden goal/sudden victory).</p> <p>Other rule impacted: 3.7.2 – During the final five minutes of the second period <u>or second overtime period</u> only, anytime the leading team makes a substitution, the referee shall signal the clock to be stopped and beckon the substitute onto the field.</p> <p>Rationale: To ensure equal opportunity for both teams during the overtime periods. Conditions, such as wind and sun, can greatly impact a team's ability to attack or defend and both teams should be afforded the opportunity to play on each half of the field during the overtime periods. If the score is tied at the end of the second 10-minute overtime period, the tiebreaker procedure of taking kicks from the penalty-kick line or spot shall continue to be used to determine advancement.</p>
<p>7.5.2 and 7.5.3 Suspended Game</p>	<p>Resume a suspended game from the point of interruption whether it is resumed the same day or another day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the game progressed to 70 minutes, it will be considered complete. • If the suspended game is resumed from the point of interruption, all statistics would carry over to the resumed game, including yellow and red cards.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the suspended game has not reached 70 minutes and is not resumed the same day or another day, the game shall be considered a “no contest” and all statistics are nullified except for violent behavior II, fighting and assault on referee red cards, which are subject to associated penalties in Rule 12. <p>Rationale: Currently, if a game does not reach 70 minutes and can't be resumed the same day, the game becomes a no contest and must be completely restarted. This could result in a team playing for 69 minutes and then playing for a full 90 minutes the next day rather than for the 21 minutes to complete the contest. Resuming a suspended game from the point of interruption would align soccer with other NCAA sports and minimize physical impact on student-athletes.</p>
12.7.4.2 and 12.7.4.8.2 Ejections	<p>Enhance the spitting at or biting an opponent or any other person penalty to a two-game suspension and categorize it as a violent behavior II red card and add coughing at an opponent or any other person to this rule and also categorize it as a violent behavior II red card.</p> <p>Rationale: To acknowledge these actions do not belong in NCAA soccer and should be penalized accordingly.</p>