



# ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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## MEMO

**TO:** CYO SOCCER DELEGATES AND COACHES

**FROM:** JOHN DIGIOVANNI, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY/CYO ATHLETIC MINISTRY

**DATE:** AUGUST 13, 2007

**SUBJECT:** 2007-2008 MAJOR *Revisions and additions*

Below you will find information about rule changes to the 2007-2008 CYO Soccer Supplemental Rules found at:

<http://www.washcyo.com/SUPPLEMENTAL.rule%20books/0708.SOCCER.Supplemental.pdf>

and to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Copies of the NFHS 2007- 08 Soccer Rules Book are available at the Office of Youth Ministry Office free of charge. It is imperative that all coaches have a good working knowledge of both.

The NFHS major rule changes appear to be intended to send a message to coaches that they need to take more responsibility for their players' equipment. Under one rule change, a coach can be given a yellow card if a player enters the field with improper equipment (e.g., no shinguards or shinguards not under the socks, wearing jewelry, etc.).

The NFHS rules also specify that the referee's only responsibility is to ask the coach if all players are properly equipped. Although some referees undoubtedly will, in accord with what has been the practice for some time, continue to have player inspections before the game, that is not a referee responsibility under NFHS rules.

Also, it has been the rule for some time that jewelry, including earrings and bracelets/wristbands, shouldn't be worn on the field. It has been reported, however, that there is a sort of unwritten "exemption" for earrings if they are covered by band-aids or tape. The word from the soccer referee's association is that this should no longer be permitted. All earrings need to come off/out. This tends to be a particular issue with the Rookie (Grades 3-4) leagues, where a number of the girls have recently gotten their ears pierced. Referees report when they ask for earrings to be removed, there is often a plea (sometimes accompanied by tears) that they can't be removed because the holes will close up. In fact, that won't happen in the 45 minutes it takes to play a soccer game. Some referees may take a hard line on this, so please be informed.

***As always, please remember our most important objectives in regard to ministering to our youth through sports: to coach them to do their best; improve their skills; and to display moral values. God Bless for all you do for our youth, their families, your parish and the CYO!***

## 2007- 08 NFHS SOCCER RULES

**Rule 1-5-3** The team areas shall extend from 10 yards on each side of the halfway line for a distance of 20 yards, and each area shall be marked by a solid line. Coaches, bench personnel and team members shall be restricted to the team area.

**EXCEPTION:** When teams are placed on the opposite sides of the field, each team area shall be located as specified above and shall be placed diagonally across from each other.

**Rule 4-1-1** Beginning with the 2008 Fall Season, shinguards must meet the national Operating Committee Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) specifications.

**Rule 4-3** Each head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of his/her players is properly equipped.

**Add** Penalty: An improperly equipped player shall be instructed to leave the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play. The head coach shall be cautioned (yellow card) for improperly equipped players.

**Delete**

**Rule 5-2-2-d-3** Examine the uniform and equipment of each player to see that it complies with the rules.

### Points of Emphasis

(For a complete discussion of the points of emphasis, please see page 68)

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Procedures for Substitutions | 5. Recruitment and Education of Officials |
| 2. Required Equipment           | 6. Pregame Responsibilities               |
| 3. Other Equipment              | 7. Game Management                        |
| 4. Coach Education              | 8. Ball Holders                           |

### Major Editorial Changes 2007-2008

**Rule 1-4-1** If used on a football field, portable goals should be anchored at least 2 yards in front of the base of the existing football goalposts.

**Rule 5-3-1** Note 2: If a coach or bench personnel is being disqualified for a subsequent act of misconduct, the referee will show a yellow card indicating the subsequent caution followed immediately by showing a red card.

**Rule 11-1-1-b (New)** Note The position of any part of the player's head, body or feet will be the deciding factor, not the player's arms.

**Rule 12-8-3-c (New)** Subsequent caution for coach or bench personnel.

**Rule 12-8-5** Misconduct Penalty Chart

**Rule 13-2-2-j** Spitting at a teammate or game official.

**Rules Comparison:** The 2007-2008 rules book will contain a comparison of the major rules differences among NFHS, NCAA and FIFA.

## 2007-2008 CYO SUPPLEMENTAL RULES

- Field & Equipment**      The following has been added to the end of paragraph 5 of the Field and Equipment Section:
- Also, the prohibition on wearing jewelry (NFHS 4-2-4) requires that all jewelry, including rings, wristbands, and earrings, be removed (e.g., taping over pierced earrings is not acceptable).
- Game Procedures**      The following has been added to the beginning of paragraph 4 of the Game Procedures Section:
- It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure that the players on his/her team are properly equipped and to be able to attest to that fact if asked by the referee (NFHS 5-2-2d 3).
- Game Play**              Revise the 6<sup>th</sup> item of paragraph 1.D of the Game Play Section as follows:
- After an injury or removal of a player to correct an equipment deficiency, by either team, when the referee stops play.
- Game Play**              Revise paragraph 3.B of the Game Play section as follows:
- B. It is the responsibility of the coach to control his/her behavior and that of his/her substitutes and the adults on his/her sideline. The coach is also responsible to see that all players are properly equipped. Failure to do so shall be subject to appropriate penalties for misconduct.
- Game Play**              Add paragraph 12 as follows:
12. Special Procedures Regarding Slide Tackling  
For Rookie, JV and Varsity Games:  
- Slide tackling is not permitted in Rookie, Junior Varsity, or Varsity games. The referee will warn both teams about this prohibition prior to the game. Once an initial warning has been given to the teams, a slide tackle by a player will result in that player being given a caution (yellow) card (unless the slide tackle results in a disqualification (red) card foul, in which case that foul should be assessed). Thereafter, a second slide tackle by that same player will disqualification (red) card, with a caution (yellow) card being given to the team's coach