

SECTION 9 MISCONDUCT

ART. 1 . . . A player, coach or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for:

- a. entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of an official;
- b. persistent infringement of any of the rules of the game;
- c. objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent);
- d. any incidental use of vulgar or profane language;

NOTE: By state association adoption, incidental use of vulgar or profane language may be a disqualification (red card).

- e. any use of electronic communication devices with the on-field players during play. Examples: Amplifying devices, wireless communication devices such as cell phones, headphones, personal digital assistant, etc.;

NOTE: A coach may engage in verbal communications with the team during play.

- f. unsporting conduct, including, but not limited to:
 1. coaching outside the team area;
 2. unnecessary delay (kicking, throwing the ball away on a free kick, etc.);
 3. holding a shirt, short, etc.;
 4. deliberate verbal tactics;
 5. encroachment (18-1-1m);
 6. a deliberate handball to stop an attack;
 7. a deliberate tactical foul (18-1-1vv);
 8. faking an injury;
 9. simulating a foul;
 10. a player who displays reckless play (18-1-1mm);
 11. an illegally equipped player, per 4-4 (18-1-1w);

12. any delayed, excessive or prolonged act(s) by which a player(s) attempts to focus attention upon themselves and/or prohibits a timely restart of the game;

13. a player (other than a goalkeeper within the goalkeeper's own penalty area) who deliberately handles the ball, attempting to prevent a goal, and the goal is scored;
14. a player who commits a foul, attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO), and the goal is scored (12-9-4);
15. a player who commits a foul against an opponent within the player's team penalty area in an attempt to play the ball that denies the opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) and the referee awards a penalty kick. (12-9-4)

- g. Use of any tobacco products or electronic cigarettes at the game site during the period of the jurisdiction of the officials.

PENALTY: A cautioned player shall leave the field and may be replaced. Should the team with the cautioned player elect to play shorthanded, the cautioned player may not re-enter nor be replaced until the next legal substitution opportunity. (3-3-3b)

ART. 2 . . . A player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for:

- a. exhibiting violent conduct (18-1-1zz);
- b. taunting – use of word or act to incite or degrade an opposing player, coach, referee or other individual;

NOTE: The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

- c. subsequent caution;
- d. committing serious foul play:
 1. any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick (or penalty kick if the offense takes place by a defender in the penalty area) and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball (18-1-1oo);
 2. a player (other than a goalkeeper within the team's own penalty area) deliberately handles the ball, attempting to prevent a goal and the goal is not scored;
 3. a player commits a foul outside the penalty area when attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO), and the goal is not scored (12-9-4);
 4. a player commits a foul, inside the penalty area, while not attempting to play the ball, denying the opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) and referee awards a penalty kick. (12-9-4)
- e. spitting at an opponent, teammate or game official;
- f. using insulting, offensive or abusive language or gesture;
- g. leaving the team area to enter the field where a fight or altercation is taking place unless summoned by an official.

PENALTY: A disqualified player must leave the field and may not return or be substituted for, and the player's team must play short. The disqualified player is restricted to the team area. Disqualified team members who are not players are restricted to the team area and may not enter the game. Disqualified adult team area personnel must leave the vicinity of the playing area.

ART. 3 . . . Coach responsibility:

- a. The head coach shall be responsible for ensuring that each of the player(s) on the team is properly and legally equipped. The head coach shall receive the first caution issued for an illegally equipped player. (3-4)
- b. The coach may be cautioned or disqualified either for team misconduct or for bench misconduct that cannot be attributed to a specific individual.
- c. A coach who is disqualified shall leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from any contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of the game. Failure to comply shall result in termination of the game.

NOTE: The rules committee strongly recommends that each state high school association adopt a policy wherein a disqualified player or coach disqualified under articles 2 and 3 shall be barred from participating in the next contest(s).

ART. 4 . . . Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO):

- a. When determining if an offense denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the following must be considered and present for a DOGSO offense:
 - 1. distance between the offense and the goal;
 - 2. general direction of the play;
 - 3. likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball;
 - 4. location and number of defenders;
- b. Where a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offense was an attempt to play the ball [12-9-1f(15)]; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) the offending player must be disqualified. [12-9-2d(4)]
- c. Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a deliberate handling offense, except a goalkeeper within their penalty area, the player is disqualified wherever the offense occurs.

MISCONDUCT PENALTY CHART

	PLAYER	BENCH PERSONNEL	COACH
Yellow Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave field until next legal substitution opportunity • May be substituted or play short 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute (nonplayer) remains in team area until next legal substitution opportunity • Other bench personnel remain in team area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains in team area
Red Card Blue Card - Players Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave field • May not return • May not be substituted; must play short • Restricted to team area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted to team area for substitutes or other students • Adult bench personnel must leave vicinity of playing area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must leave the vicinity of playing area