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Randy Soma  
 Assistant Executive Director

**SOCCKER ADVISORY MINUTES**

Meeting: October 25, 1:30 PM CT  
 SDHSAA via Zoom

The Soccer Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM CT with the following representatives present via teleconference:

‘AA’ Coach Rep.	Ryan Beier, O’Gorman	2026 (2)
‘A’ Coach Rep.	Curt Nelson, Vermillion	2026 (2)
Athletic Director	Kevin Steckler, Garretson	2026 (1)
Superintendent	Dr. Steve Willard, Belle Fourche	2025 (2)
Official	Greg Stone, Rapid City	2026 (1)

SDHSAA Staff member present Randy Soma. Agenda was motioned for approval by Willard, second by Nelson; approved unanimously. Meeting terms and committee terms were reviewed. Soma was selected as the recording secretary.

**Committee action begin with review of 2023-24 changes.**

1. Review Rule Changes for 2023-24
  - a. SDHSAA Rule Changes
    - i. **Class A playoff format:** The top eight teams with the highest seed point averages at the end of the regular season will advance to post-season play.
  - b. NFHS Rule Changes
    - i. **3-3-2b (2,3) (NEW):** Permits the referee to stop the clock to review game situations at any time without negatively impacting a player’s ability to remain in the game.  
**Rationale:** This rule change affords the ability for the referee to stop the clock and review situations without negatively affecting a player’s ability to remain in the game. However, once the referee beckons medical professional or coach onto the field to further assess, the player must leave the field of play.
    - ii. **3-3-7:** Clarifies where a player should re-enter the game to avoid confusion.  
**Rationale:** This rule change clarifies that a player should re-enter the game from the official area at midfield. This avoids potential confusion as to who is or is not in the game.
    - iii. **3-4-1e (NEW):** Clarifies players should exit the field on the bench side unless unable to do so due to injury.  
**Rationale:** To assist the officials in the managing of substitutions, players should exit the field from the bench side when the substitute(s) are beckoned on by the referee unless the player(s) is unable to do so because of an injury. This avoids unnecessary interaction with opposing teams and fans and minimizes the potential for unsporting behavior.
    - iv. **4-2-12 (NEW):** Defines how wearable technology devices may be worn.  
**Rationale:** Sets a national standard for wearable technology. This change clarifies that these devices may be worn as a part of the shoe and/or under the uniform but not worn on the arm. Coaches and players are still not permitted to utilize technology to communicate during the game.

- v. **Rule 4 Reorganization:** Adjusts the structure of the uniform rule to offer clarity.  
**Rationale:** The reorganization of the uniform rule breaks up the rule into bite-size pieces that are easier for coaches and officials to apply.
- vi. **11-1-5 (NEW):** Defines deliberately playing the ball to clarify the existing rules.  
**Rationale:** Defines the criteria for deliberately playing the ball when determining an offside infraction.
- vii. **12-1-1 thru 3 (NEW), 18-1-1:** Clarifies various foul categories and defines the seven direct free kick fouls to provide consistency.  
**Rationale:** The new article in Rule 12 and added definitions to Rule 18 define the seven direct free kick fouls and provide consistency for officials interpreting misconduct.
- viii. **12-3-2, 3 (NEW):** Clarifies that neither accidental nor deliberate hand/arm contact can result in a goal.  
**Rationale:** The new articles eliminate the necessity for the referee to determine if the hand/arm contact was accidental or deliberate. Now, neither accidental nor deliberate contact with the hand/arm result in a goal for greater consistency and ease of interpretation.
- ix. **12-8-5 (NEW):** Offers clarity regarding goalkeeper handling not permitted outside and inside the penalty area.  
**Rationale:** Adding language and direction for officials regarding goalkeeper handling outside the penalty area and inside the penalty area when they are not permitted to handle the ball.
- x. **12-9-4(NEW), 12-8-1f(14, 15), 12-8-2d (3,4):** Defines considerations of denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO).  
**Rationale:** This rule defines the considerations of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to provide additional consistency and clarity for referees.

## Reviewed the List of Deviations in Soccer from the NFHS

None

## Committee members reports:

All Advisory Members brought forward the following items for discussion.

- Discussed Centralized Schedules/more balance to scheduling. Randy will visit with the Soccer schools to possible have a meeting to discuss schedules once classification is finalized. Travel, JV Teams, cost we all discussed with putting together a schedule. It was brought forward that we should start separating the games. i.e. girls at home and boys away as a solution for times and officials.
- We discussed Petition Process for Soccer Classification. Discussion on allowing schools to petition up in just one sport and not having other sports having to move up as well. This was also discussed at the classification committee meeting and will be brought forward out of that committee. Soccer Advisory feels schools should be able to opt up in a classification by gender and it should not affect the other sports classification.
- Discussion on extending the season. Randy discussed the issues and scheduling problems that we have currently. The calendar committee is looking at all sports and Randy will bring this up for discussion at the next Calendar Committee Meeting. There is not a lot we can currently do unless the calendar changes for some other Fall Sports.
- Back to Back Start times. We had discussion and felt this was a school by school issue and that the Athletic Directors can do what's best for their schools.
- Power Point Formula – The AA Athletic Directors are looking at the seeding formula for all sports and will visit about possible changes they may have. Soccer Advisory feels this need to change with schools playing teams more than once and the possible schedule issues we may have starting next year with schools moving up in the larger class and not having enough schools to play in class A.
- Red Card Suspension appeal process. We will bring to the in/out of season committee to look at and discuss. Randy has asked the Soccer Coaches on the Advisory to come up with a procedure for appeal. This mostly deals with athletes receiving a Red card at the end of the season and it affecting another sport they are participating in.
- Officials brought forward suggested start times of 5:30/7:30pm vs 4pm and 6pm. Officials and assigners are having more issues find officials to cover the early games. Randy will bring this

forward to the Soccer AD's at the convention. It is the recommendation of the Soccer Advisory that schools work hard on setting later start times when they can to accommodate officials. The officials are working on a new system for assigning. The platform they were using is going away. They should have something out by this Spring. We need to start working on recruiting and retention of Soccer Officials. We will have a large number of them retiring in the near future without replacements.

- School Uniform – We have some schools still not wearing the proper NFHS approved uniforms. We have had a 5-year grace period for those schools to get the uniforms corrected. Randy will make sure that those schools are contacted and are working on new uniforms.
- We talked about the mercy rule for regular season/sub-state/state championship. No change was advised.
- Playoff dates we discussed when weather is an issue. Recommendation was to not change anything on how we have been doing it.

### **Rule Proposals**

No Rules Proposals were brought forward.

### **Review of SDHSAA Handbook Sections for Soccer**

No items to discuss at this time.

The Committee would like Randy to look at setting up a meeting with all Schools Sponsoring Soccer to work on a schedule. Randy will try to setup a scheduling meeting with all the Athletic Directors that have School Sponsored Soccer.

With no other times to discuss Willard motioned and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steckler to adjourn – Motion carries