



804 N. Euclid / PO Box 1217 - Pierre SD 57501
Telephone: 605-224-9261 – Fax: 224-9262

Randy Soma
Assistant Executive Director

SOCCKER ADVISORY MINUTES

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

The Soccer Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 1:30 AM CT with the following representatives present via teleconference:

'AA' Coach Rep.	Ryan Beier, Harrisburg	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) (Retired – Need to Replace)
Official	Nicole Hovdestad, Sioux Falls	2026 (1)

SDHSAA Staff member present Dr. Dan Swartos, Kristina Sage and Randy Soma, Agenda was motioned for approval by Steckler, second by Beier; approved unanimously. Meeting terms and committee terms were reviewed. Soma was selected as the recording secretary.

Committee action begins with review of 2024-25 changes.

1. Review Rule Changes for 2024-25

a. SDHSAA Rule Changes

- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- **Balance in schedules, AA vs A, 14 games vs 10, Seed point formula.**
We looked at Power Points and the possibility of making it 3 games before the subtraction of seed points instead of 5. How can class “A” get more games closer to the 14 allowable, especially in the Class “A” Girls schedules. AA school will need to play more “A” schools for this to happen.
- **Referee selection for State,** do coaches votes matter, how can we get the best.
Randy discussed the process for selection of State Tournament officials. We consider the coaches vote of those officials that have put in for the post-season and state tournament. Randy also has the assigners in the State, Tom, Guy and Mike critique from the list and make recommendations to him on who we should assign. From there Randy makes assignments based on coaches’ votes, recommendations, past state tournaments and playoff experience.
- **Semifinal, or 3rd and 4th place games.** Logistics.
This is in the proposals.
- **More than 20 minutes to warm up for State games** or have a 2nd location to warm up.
Suggested that when a host site does not have a field next to the championship field to warm up on that school will get 30 minutes to warm up and the start of the 1st session and the 2nd session (Game 1 and Game 3 – will always get 30 minutes to warmup)
Randy will look at the Schule to try and accommodate this in the timeline.
- **State finals** – A on Friday nights, AA on Saturday. 5pm and 7pm.
This is in the proposals.
- Officials recommend starting games as late as possible. Move away from the 4/6pm games to help keep official. They would like to stay at the job longer. Move games to 5:30/7:30 or 6/8pm.
- Next year we will have this meeting on the Wednesday after state soccer.

Wednesday October 22, 2025, at 10:30am via Zoom

Rule Proposals

Motion by Beier and 2nd by Nelson. Motion carries This would not take effect until the 2028/29 School Year. Randy will need to set a schedule and Class A will always play the 1st and 2nd game in the state championship. Other considerations to look at is schedule, budget, sites, officials etc.



Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory committee to consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office preferably two weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the agenda.

Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball | <input type="radio"/> Football | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Soccer | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp. Cheer | <input type="radio"/> Golf | <input type="radio"/> Softball | <input type="radio"/> Wrestling |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp Dance | <input type="radio"/> Gymnastics | <input type="radio"/> Tennis | <input type="radio"/> In/Out-of-Season |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross Country/Track | | | |

Title of Proposal: Final Four

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Class B
☐ Class A
☒ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change:

I would like to propose a final four game. The teams would play in the quarterfinals on that Saturday. The teams that win in the quarterfinals would have the full week for recovery and preparation for the "final four". The top four teams would all play on Friday at the state venue and then all play on Saturday as well. Winners of Friday's game would be playing for the state championship on Saturday and the losers on Friday, would play for 3rd and 4th on the Saturday before the championship game. There would be 4 AA games on Friday and 4 AA games on Saturday.

Rationale for Rule Change:

This would act as more of a state tournament for the student athletes. I think being top 4 is a huge accomplishment and I think the 3rd and 4th place teams should get recognized as well. This is more exciting for the student athletes.

Review of SDHSAA Handbook Sections for Soccer

No items to discuss at this time.

Items to bring forward for discussion with Athletic Directors

1. We currently have the following with scheduling between classes:
Class 'A' Teams will receive an additional two points for each contest versus a Class 'AA' Team
Class 'AA' Teams will be deducted two points for each contest against a Class 'A' Team beyond four
Discussion on moving this to 3 games instead of 4
2. Seed Points Adjusted for Class AA (proposal) *No Motion on this proposal*
Randy will do some checking on how teams would have turned out this year with the proposal that was presented by Brookings on changing the seed points.
 - Class A Opponent (.50 – 1.0) win percentage: Win 44 points, Tie 38.5, loss 30
 - Class A Opponent (0.00-.499) win percentage: Win 41 points, Tie 35.5, loss 30
 - Concerns that this may make AA teams do not want to play A teams
3. 3rd and 4th place games (Proposal) *No Motion on this proposal*
 - Tough sell to schools – Budget, out of school time, logistics and schedule.
4. How can we help schools to get their schedules finalized and filled out.

With no other times to discuss Nelson motioned and 2nd by Steckler to adjourn – Motion carries