

## NFHS Soccer Rule Changes 2020-2021

### Indirect free kick:

- An indirect free kick is the restart for certain types of fouls/misconduct (offside, dangerous play, pass back to the goalkeeper, etc.)

### Drop Ball:

- A drop ball is the restart for an unusual situation (injury, inadvertent whistle, dog on field, etc.)
- Ball is only dropped to one player
- If inside the penalty area, the ball is dropped to the defending team's goalkeeper
- If outside the penalty area, the ball is dropped to one player from the team that last possessed the ball
- Opponents must be 4 yards from the ball (and outside the penalty area)
- Remember change from last year, a goal cannot be scored directly from a drop ball

### Goal Kicks and Free Kicks inside the penalty area:

- Defensive free kicks and goal kicks are in play when the ball is kicked and moves (The ball doesn't have to leave the penalty area)
- Opponents must be 10 yards away and outside the penalty area
- Note: Tapping the top of the ball with your foot does not put the ball into play (See Rule 18.1.o)

### Penalty Kicks:

- The goalkeeper only has to have 1 foot on or in line with the goal line during a penalty kick
- The goalkeeper is not allowed to touch the goal posts, crossbar, or nets during a penalty kick

### Ball out of play:

- The ball is now out of play when it hits an official and:
  - o A team starts a promising attack
  - o The ball goes directly into the goal
  - o Possession changes
- Restart is a drop ball where the ball hit the official to the team last in possession

### Referee signals:

- If the referee doesn't use the indirect free kick signal and the ball goes into the opponent's goal, the kick is retaken

### Defensive walls:

- If 3 or more players are in a defensive wall, attacking players must be 1 yard from the wall until the ball is kicked

### Equipment:

- Shirts no longer have to be tucked in
- Tooth and mouth protectors can now be white or clear in color

### Other changes:

- Definition of "obstruction" is changed to be different from "shielding."
- New referee positioning on corner kicks (p. 88)