

REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Bryan Tyson (Chair), Larry Williford (Vice-Chair), Henry Rice, Jamie King, Elbert Lassiter
Staff: Mark Dreibelbis and Beth Zinkand

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
1. Violation Report R&O 1 Attachment <i>Distributed at meeting</i>	Discussion of comprehensive listing of incidents and penalties. July 1 – current date.	**Discussion Only**
2. Ejection Report R&O 2 Attachment <i>Distributed at meeting</i>	Discussion of the ejection report. July 1 – current date.	**Discussion Only**
3. Report from the Officiating Sub-Committee	Discussion of Officiating Sub-Committee work.	**Discussion Only**
4. Game Fee Clarification for Delayed and Not Played Contests	<p>3.4.2 (a) (3) (iii) When officials arrive on site for a contest and that contest is delayed one hour past the original start time, and the game is not played, the officials receive a full game fee.</p> <p>Supported by the Officiating Sub-Committee and the Regional Supervisor Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Rationale: When officials are on site and remain over an extended period of time, they should receive a full game fee.</p> <p>Budget Impact: Increases ½ game fee per official, per sport</p> <p>Educational Impact: N/A</p> <p>Equity Impact: N/A</p> <p>Effective Date: Spring Sports Season 2025</p>

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
5. Age Limit for NCHSAA Officials	<p>3.4.2 (e) (2) Varsity football, soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, swimming and lacrosse officials must be registered with the NCHSAA. It is highly recommended that officials under the age of 18 or still in high school only be used in non-member events. <u>Any person under the age of 18 or still in high school cannot be assigned to officiate NCHSAA contests.</u></p> <p>Supported by the Officiating Sub-Committee and the Regional Supervisor Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Rationale: To ensure minors and/or current high school students are not assigned NCHSAA contests for officiating purposes.</p> <p>Budget Impact: N/A</p> <p>Educational Impact: Helps ensure qualified persons officiating NCHSAA contests.</p> <p>Equity Impact: N/A</p> <p>Effective Date: January 1, 2025</p>
6. Playoff Assignments	<p>Baseball 4.2.2 (g) (2) <u>After the first two rounds, umpires will be assigned by the NCHSAA Director of Officiating Services.</u></p> <p>Softball 4.9.2 (g) (2) <u>After the first two rounds, umpires will be assigned by the NCHSAA Director of Officiating Services.</u></p> <p>Lacrosse 4.7.2 (h) (2) <u>After the first two rounds, officials will be assigned by the NCHSAA Director of Officiating Services.</u></p> <p>Volleyball 4.13.2 (j) (1) <u>After the first two rounds, officials will be assigned by the NCHSAA Director of Officiating Services.</u></p> <p>Supported by the Regional Supervisory Advisory Committee and each sports' Regional Supervisors and the NC Athletic Directors Association.</p>	<p>Rationale: This procedure is already in place for the sports of Football, Soccer and Basketball. It is confusing to athletic directors from sport-to-sport. Assignments can be made in a more efficient and expedient manner by NCHSAA staff. Additionally, this would spread assignments fairly to local associations/Regional Supervisors under the same concept State Championship assignments are made each year/season.</p> <p>Budget Impact: N/A</p> <p>Educational Impact: N/A</p> <p>Equity Impact: All sports assigned in the same manner and protocol.</p> <p>Effective Date: January 1, 2025.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
7. Digital Rule Books	<p>Consider utilizing the NFHS All-Access app for rule books in each sport. It would provide saving on the cost of purchasing books for our officials and eliminate postage costs of mailing hard-copy rule book packets.</p> <p>A 1-year advance implementation should be considered if this proposal is moved forward.</p>	** Discussion Only **
8. Zero Tolerance Policy	<p>Discussion of Policy Committee. See Policy 1 Attachment.</p>	** Discussion Only **
9. Yellow and Red Card Tracking	<p>Discussion of Sports Committee. See Sports 2 Attachment.</p>	** Discussion Only **

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name: Dr. Jonathan Tribula

School/LEA/Conference: Nash Central High School / Nash County / Big East 2A/3A

I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal:

I am asking the NCHSAA Board of Directors to revisit the zero-tolerance policy that profanity is an automatic ejection in athletic contests. I would like for the NCHSAA Board of Directors to create a subcommittee of coaches, athletic directors, school board members, and superintendents that studies the impact this policy has on student-athletes. As an organization, the NCHSAA has focused so much attention on equality, cultural awareness, and sportsmanship. I understand that profanity is a poor display of sportsmanship; however, it also totally dismisses many of our students' cultural upbringing.

Many of our student athletes are raised in an environment where profanity is not seen as negatively by parents/guardians as previous generations. Often, this language has become very normalized in the home and community. As well, most local school board policies and administrative regulations do not even require an out-of-school suspension for profanity in the school building. In fact, most superintendents and school boards have strongly urged school administrators to use other restorative practices on profanity among students besides out-of-school suspension.

The NCHSAA has a "bench bad behavior" initiative on its website. I agree totally with this initiative. However, the reality is that a zero-tolerance policy on profanity does not equate to benching, it means ejection from that contest and future contests.

There must be some parameters when it comes to student-athletes who use profanity. I have no issue with a zero-tolerance policy towards officials and even egregious profanity towards an opposing coach or side line. However, in the middle of a play, scrum, loose-ball, or fumble there must be some discretion and other alternatives used by our officials. Warnings, penalties, technical fouls, loss of points (swimming, wrestling, track), and forced benching with re-entry into the contest can be a much better outcome than just an automatic ejection.

Automatic ejections are so unfairly and inconsistently enforced in each sport within the NCHSAA. As a high school principal for many years, I have seen hundreds of contests where cussing has been warned, penalized, or even forced benching. However, if we have a zero-tolerance policy and it truly is not enforced with fidelity, then we open our parents, fans, coaches and administrators to question the

intentions of officials when one player is made an example while others are not. Either we have a zero-tolerance policy that is unequivocally enforced or we go back to the drawing board to see if there are other restorative practices that teach good sportsmanship while taking into consideration a student-athletes cultural upbringing.

- **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**

The rationale for this agenda item is in the recommendation. A zero-tolerance policy for profanity is inconsistently and unfairly enforced across all sports in the NCHSAA. There is no such policy in college and professional athletics. As well, a zero-tolerance policy shows cultural insensitivity to our student-athletes upbringing.

There are other processes to teach sportsmanship than an automatic ejection.

- **Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)**

There will be no impact on a school's or athletic department's budget with this recommendation.

- **Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)**

There may possibly be a positive impact where there is less loss of school time. Often, student-athletes are also given school discipline consequences from an ejection such as out-of-school suspension.

- **Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)**

There is no impact on gender. There is a potential positive impact on cultural awareness.

- **Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)**

For the 2025-2026 athletic season.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. Hite", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Date: 10/31/24

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name(s): Jay Niessner, NCSCA President & the NCSCA Executive Board

School/LEA/Conference/Group: North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association (NCSCA)

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal:

State in detail the recommendation/proposal. Include attachments if necessary:

To eliminate or change the way in which the NCHSAA tracks & penalizes yellow and red cards in the sports of mens & womens soccer. Please see attachment for full details & proposals.

- **Rationale:** (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)

NC is one of only 8 states that leaves the tracking & enforcement of yellow card accumulation to the schools. This leads to inconsistencies across the state in the tracking and reporting of cards. In addition, the NFHS does not include this in their soccer rules handbook or suggest it.

- **Budget Impact:** (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)

There would be zero impact on any school's budget

- **Educational Impact:** (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)

There would be no educational impact, loss of school time or interfere with any study time.

- **Gender Impact:** (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)

There would be no gender impact, this change would be for both men's & women's soccer.

- **Effective Date:** (When would this go into effect?)

For the spring of 2025 women's season.

Signature 

Date 10/31/24

Fax completed form to 919-240-7399 or email to info@nchsaa.org

October 30th, 2024

To: NCHSAA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association Executive Board (NCSCA), we would like to submit a proposal to change the way in which Yellow Cards & Red Cards are counted, tracked, and dealt with by the NCHSAA. Our membership has had numerous discussions on the subject of yellow card tracking, suspensions, and the inconsistencies across the state.

The NCSCA would like to ask the board to make amendments to the NCHSAA bylaws about the tracking and wording of the official language in the handbook about yellow cards.

As it is currently written in the NCHSAA handbook:

4.8.1 (j) - Yellow card tracking & ejections - Coaches and Athletic Directors are responsible for tracking yellow cards accumulated by their student athletes and all team personnel including coaches. Coaches are required to enter all yellow and red cards received by student-athletes and coaches into MaxPreps within 24 hours following the conclusion of the contest.

(1) A red card is the equivalent of two yellow cards

(2) Regular Season:

(a) The accumulation of five yellow cards by the same person will result in a one-game suspension

(b) The accumulation of every five yellow cards by the same person after the first five (10, 15 etc) will result in a post game ejection

After researching each state athletic association across the United States, we found that the majority of states do not track yellow cards. Those that are most successful in tracking them use a central location to report yellow cards. This increases accountability on officials and schools to report the cards.

Overall:

- Thirty three states do not track yellow card accumulation throughout the season.
- Nine states track yellow cards through a central reporting system that officials and schools have to report the cards into, which helps with verification.
- Only eight states leave the tracking to the schools and leave it to the schools to enforce yellow card penalties.

The NCSCA would like the NCHSAA to consider either of the following proposals as they relate to the tracking of yellow cards.

Eliminating the tracking of yellow cards:

- Soccer is the only sport that tracks penalties across games and imposes consequences to our student athletes. As stated above, 33 states currently do not track yellow cards.
 - When looking at other team sports where similar penalties might be enforced:
 - Basketball is not required to track technical fouls, so in theory, a student-athlete could receive a technical foul in every game and have no consequences. In the game of basketball, they do have foul limits and players can foul out, which could also be the case in soccer, where a player receives one or two yellow cards for persistent fouls. Basketball players who foul out of games do not have to sit the next game.
 - Football is not required to track personal fouls, so in theory, a student-athlete could commit a personal foul in every game and have no consequences. Football players are removed for multiple personal fouls which would equate to a red card in soccer, the only difference being that soccer then plays down a man, while football is allowed to sub the disqualified player.
 - Volleyball is not required to track the issuance of yellow cards from one game to the next. So in theory, a volleyball player could receive a yellow card in each match and have no consequences.
- There is little to no consistency across the state in the issuance of yellow cards to players; what might be a yellow card one night, is not the next. Much like consistency can vary in basketball from night to night, some nights players foul out and some nights they don't. However, in other sports fouling out does not carry a penalty from one game to another.
- Many coaches or schools are not tracking or enforcing the yellow card rules, and players are not sitting out contests when they reach the five cards.
- The NFHS does not include the tracking of yellow cards in their soccer rules & regulations, or anywhere discuss the accumulation of yellow cards.

However, we understand that the NCHSAA may want to continue to track yellow cards, in those circumstances:

- We would like there to be a central reporting location for all cards. In this system (preferably in Dragonfly) we would like officials and schools to enter & verify cards within 24 hours of the contest, not track them on MaxPreps
 - This could also be used to help officials & coaches know if a player is supposed to be out

- *Schools & officials should also verify that the player has sat their game(s) after the match has been played*
- *Five yellow cards = 1 game suspension*
- *Ten yellow cards = 1 game suspension & ejection report*
- *Fifteen yellow cards = 2 game suspension & second ejection*
- *Soft Red (two yellow cards in a match) = Disqualification - No Suspension/No Ejection*
- *A player who receives a straight red should not have that count towards their yellow card count, that player is already being penalized with the straight red and should not be double penalized for the offense.*

Thank you for taking the time to review our concerns and proposals. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association President, Jay Niessner with any questions that you might have about our proposal.

Sincerely,

Jay Niessner - NCSCA President

NCSCA Executive Board:

Jay Niessner	President	Hickory Ridge High School
Brian Jillings	Past President	Hickory High School
Keith Jenkins	Vice President	Clayton High School
Jay Raynor	Secretary	East Bladen High School
Tim Guter	Treasurer	New Bern High School
Paul Slater	Clinic Coordinator	Croatan High School
Amy Green	Women's Coaches Liaison	Northern High School
Gregg George	Clash of the Carolinas Game Coordinator	East Forsyth High School
Jeremy Krist	Rankings & MaxPreps	Williams High School
Herk DeGraw	East/West All Star Game Coordinator	Swansboro High School
Patrick Gladys	Sponsorship & Fundraising	AC Reynolds High School
Scott Sloan	Athletic Director & NCHSAA Liaison	Heritage High School
Jason Dragoon	Awards Liaison	East Lincoln High School
Paul Ebenhoeh	Membership	Pine Lake Prep
Gary Hoilett	Webmaster	Charlotte Catholic High School
Jason Curtis	Kickoff Classic	Chapel Hill High School
Rick Pittarelli	Kickoff Classic	Wake Forest High School
Roger Morton	Officials Liaison	NCPSOA