

Section 8: RIIL Rules & Regulations Specific to Soccer – Article 24

- I. A player, coach, or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for:
 - a. Taunting
 - b. A subsequent caution
 - c. Leaving the team area to enter the field where a fight or altercation is taking place. Exception: the head coach may enter the field to aid the officials in controlling the players where a fight or altercation is taking place.
 - d. A disqualified player shall be ineligible to participate in the next League contest(s) as per Article 6, Section 6.
 - e. Whenever a referee ejects a player from a soccer game, s/he shall immediately designate whether the ejection was for flagrant conduct (verbally or active) or a technical violation. S/he will then notify the coach at once.
 - f. Anytime a player receives a red card; the League Office shall be notified. See Article 9, Section 4, paragraph B1 (Reports from officials). If the ejection is for flagrant conduct, the player is automatically out of the next scheduled League game in accordance with Article 6, Section 6. If the ejection is for a technical violation, the provisions of Article 6, Section 6 shall not apply.

J. **UPDATED FALL 2026 Accrued Card Rules: the following rules apply to boys and girls:**

- a. Reporting of Red/Yellow Cards:
 - A. Officials will report all Red Cards earned during a game via the Arbiter Game Report or Officials' Association approved submission. All Red/Yellow Cards must be emailed to the RIIL within 24 hrs of each game. Referee game reports will include reasons for yellow and red cards.
 - B. Coaches:
 - A. The home team shall keep on file at the school the hard copy of all RIIL Game Reports through the state championship.
 - B. Each team Head Coach shall enter accurate Red/Yellow Card data on the RIIL designated website within 24 hours of the completion of each game.
- b. The RIIL defines Tier 1 Yellow Cards as the following items contained in Rule 12 of the NFHS Soccer Rule Book:
 - A. Dissent: Objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official (sub-section d.)
 - B. Incidental use of vulgar or profane language (sub-section e.)
 - C. Unsporting Conduct including reckless or dangerous play (sub-section g.)
- c. In-Game and End-Game Procedure:
 - A. Home Team must provide a table, scorer, and printed Game Report (2 pgs)
 - B. Official cautions an athlete/coach and presents the R/Y Card with verbal explanation of the infraction at the time of the foul
 - C. Official records the card information in their personal notebook
 - D. Home team scorer records the card information on the Game Report according to the information provided by the official
 - E. At the next stoppage in play, the official will report to the table to ensure the Card is reported correctly

- F. Post-Game Clerical Meeting: the officials will report to the scorer's table at the conclusion of the game to validate the accuracy of the Game Report and sign.
 - A. Coaches shall not use this time to discuss the game with officials
- G. Home Team Coach collects the Game Report and keeps it until the end of the season.

d. Individual Consequences:

- A. After five cumulative yellow cards or three cumulative Tier 1 yellow cards a player shall be suspended for the next league game (including playoffs) and all non-league games between.
 - A. Note: A player has a clean slate for the playoffs except when that player earns the 5th yellow (or third Tier 1 yellow) card during the last regular season game. In that situation, the player must sit out the first game of the playoffs. If the fifth card happens to be the second yellow in a game, the player must sit out the next two consecutive League games (including playoffs).
- B. After the one game suspension for accruing five yellows or three tier 1 yellows, any subsequent yellow cards shall earn that player an additional one game suspension for the next league game and all non-league games between (including playoffs).
- C. A player must leave the field of play when a yellow card is issued (including the goalie), but for no specified amount of time.
- D. During all games if a coach is assessed a yellow card he/she must remain seated on the bench.

e. Teams Consequences:

- A. A varsity team that accumulates five (5) or more Red Cards during the regular season shall be:
 - A. Disqualified from RIIL tournament play
 - B. Placed on probation
- B. A varsity team that accumulates a total combination of sixteen (16) Red and Tier 1 Yellow Cards during the regular season shall be:
 - A. Disqualified from RIIL tournament play
 - B. Placed on probation
- C. A varsity team that is placed on soccer probation, and accumulates a total of five (5) Red Cards or ten (10) Red and Tier 1 Yellow Cards during the next year shall:
 - A. Remain on probation
 - B. The PCOA will determine the continuation/removal of varsity teams on probation each year
 - C. Be disqualified from RIIL Tournament play
- D. If a team/coach is issued five (5) yellow cards during a playoff game, the team will lose one player and play the remainder of the game short-handed. Additionally, if the same team is issued two (2) more yellow cards they will lose another player and play two short.
 - A. NOTE: The coach will no longer be ejected if his/her team accumulates five (5) cards.