

**DELAWARE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
STATE SOCCER COMMITTEE**

CARD ACCUMULATION POLICY

The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) currently has a policy in place that is directly aimed at high school coaches with regard to yellow/red card accumulation during a season. The policy below includes consequences for the coach and student athlete. It is as follows:

1. Four Yellow Cards accumulated by a single student athlete during the regular season will result in a one game suspension. If the fourth yellow card is issued in the last game of the regular season, the one game suspension will be served in the first round of the state soccer tournament, if their team qualifies. If the team does not qualify for the state tournament and the student athlete is an underclassman, the one game suspension will be served in the first game of the following season. (DIAA Reg. 1007 2.3.1.3). If the student athlete were a senior, the penalty would carry over to the soccer all star game or their next sport (DIAA Reg. 2.3.1.3.2.).

Rationale: Four Yellow Cards equates to a yellow card every four games during the regular season.

2. When a student athlete has accumulated four yellow cards, and has served a game suspension (following the guidelines of DIAA Reg. 1007 2.3.1.2), the card accumulation policy will continue during the regular season. If the student athlete is awarded a sixth yellow card, the student athlete will serve a two game suspension and at the discretion of the DIAA Executive Director, they may be required to appear before the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee. If they are awarded a seventh yellow card during the regular season, a two game suspension will be imposed, they will appear before the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee, and the individual will be ineligible for the post season play if their respective team qualifies for the state tournament.

Rationale: Instead of wiping the slate clean and giving the individual player the opportunity to earn another four cards, behavior modification must be a continued process for the individual student athlete. As the cards accumulate, the consequences must increase as well.

3. In the event a student athlete or coach receives two yellow cards in the same game, resulting in a red card, two yellow cards will count toward their season total. The student athlete and/or coach will still receive a one game suspension (or more) as a result of the misconduct and ejection.

Rationale: We are not looking to apply double jeopardy but we must be consistent with the spirit of the policy.

4. This policy effects regular season play only. However, any penalties awarded to a student athlete during the regular season (such as game suspensions) will carry over into the post season.

Rationale: The Boys' Soccer Committee believes this policy should be implemented and evaluated for the regular season only. This will allow the committee to work out any logistical and/or administrative problems before installing an additional policy for the state tournament.

5. Three yellow cards accumulated by a single coach during the regular season will result in a one game suspension.

Rationale: See number 6.

6. When a coach has served a one game suspension for accumulating three yellow cards, the card accumulation policy will continue. A fourth yellow card will result in a two game suspension, an appearance before the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee, and suspension from the state tournament, should their team qualify for post season play.

Rationale: The coach should be held to a higher standard than their student athletes and the consequences of their behavior should be greater as well. Ultimately, the coach is responsible for the behavior of their team and most certainly for themselves.

The Boys' Soccer Committee will monitor the implementation and logistics of the Card Accumulation Policy. The committee discussed several additional ideas associated with a Card Accumulation Policy but concluded that we walk before we run. We also want to be certain that our policy is consistent with existing DIAA regulations. After two years the committee will review the possibility of extending the policy to include:

>Implementing a card accumulation policy for the DIAA state soccer tournament.

>Applying penalties to a team. If a team accumulates a set number of cards during the regular season, than that team would be declared ineligible for the state state tournament.

THE LOGISTICS FOR REPORTING YELLOW AND RED CARDS

1. All head soccer coaches will be responsible for reporting yellow/red cards to their athletic director.
2. The head coach and athletic director will maintain a record of accumulated cards for their respective school.
3. Referees that are members of the Diamond State Soccer Officials Association and the Delaware Soccer Officials Association will report all cards to their Incident Coordinators who will immediately forward this information directly to the DIAA Coordinator of Officials.
4. The DIAA Coordinator of Officials will notify the athletic director if a student athlete or coach has violated the Card Accumulation Policy resulting in a game suspension. Of course the athletic director would be aware of this fact from his own records.
5. Refusing to report, or failing to report yellow/red cards, could have serious implications for the parties involved.
6. A student athlete or coach who has violated the Card Accumulation Policy is considered ineligible for their next game(s). Allowing their participation in subsequent games while they are ineligible will result in the forfeiture of all games in which the individual in question participated.
7. The DIAA Coordinator of Officials will submit an end of season report to the DIAA Boys' Soccer Committee and the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee for their review.

Fall, 2007 Soccer Card Report

Total Reports	472	Ejections	29	Red Cards	29
Positive Reports	12	Coaches	3	Hard Reds	13
Negative Reports	460	Players	26	Soft Reds	16

<u>Foul Summary</u>	
Foul	#
Dissent	90
Excessive Force	65
Tackle from Behind	48
Late tackles	33
Persistent Infringement	31
Pushing	26
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	26
Grabbing/Holding	22
Delay of Game	18
Fouls v. Keeper	18
Encroachment	16
Profanity	12
Equipment violations	10
Language	7
Handballs	7
Charging	6
Kicking opponent	6
Tripping	5
Played the Man not the Ball	5
Retaliation	5
Substitution violations	4
Total	460

Observations

- 5 - Plan to reduce Dissent was a success
- 5 - Accounting of Cards needs improvement
- 5 - Officials can use data for education
- 4 - Contact fouls primary reason for 4 cards

1 Player received 5 Cards
 11 Players received 4 cards
 18 Players received 3 cards
 49 Players received 2 cards

Fall, 2008 Soccer Card Report

Total Reports	437	Ejections	30	Red Cards	30
Positive Reports	3	Coaches	2	Hard Reds	24
Negative Reports	434	Players	27	Soft Reds	6
		Others	1		

<u>Foul Summary</u>		
Foul	#	
<u>Yellow Card Offenses</u>		
C1 - Unsporting Behavior	264	
C2 - Dissent by word or action	68	
C3 - Persistent Infringement	36	
C4 - Delays restart of play	7	
C5 - Fails to respect distance	4	
C6 - Enters field of play illegally	2	
C7 - Leaves field illegally	0	
Equipment violation	23	
Total	404	
<u>Red Card Offenses</u>		
E1 - Serious Foul Play	6	
E2 - Violent Conduct	5	
E3 - Spits at opponent/person	0	
E4 - Denies goal opportunity by handling ball	1	
E5 - Denies goal opportunity by FK/PK offense	0	
E6 - Language offenses	12	
E7 - 2nd YC in match	6	
Total	30	

Observations

Independent Conference has a disproportional number of cards compared to larger Conferences

Equipment card to Coach could result in a Coach being suspended

Total Number of negative Reports is down

Reporting system used by Officials groups is greatly improved - Congrats to DSSOA/DSOA

Dissent Cards down from Fall, 2007 (68 - 90)

Spectator involvement/interference could become a problem

1 Player received 5 Cards
 3 Players received 4 cards
 18 Players received 3 cards
 55 Players received 2 cards

0 Coaches received 3 cards
 3 Coaches received 2 cards
 *1 Coach got both for equipment

Fall, 2009 Soccer Card Report

Total Reports	511	Ejections	37	Red Cards	37
Positive Reports	2	Coaches	2	Hard Reds	21
Negative Reports	509	Players	35	Soft Reds	16
		Others	1		

<u>Foul Summary</u>			
Foul	#		
<u>Yellow Card Offenses</u>			
C1 - Unsporting Behavior	339	C1.1 Unsporting behavior by action	286
C2 - Dissent by word or action	75	C1.2 unsporting behavior due to equipment	18
C3 - Persistent Infringement	32	C1.3 Unsporting Behavior/Incidental language	21
C4 - Delays restart of play	12	C1.4 Unsporting Behavior/Other	14
C5 - Fails to respect distance	8		
C6-Enters field of play illegally	2		
C7-Leaves field illegally	0		
Total	468		
<u>Red Card Offenses</u>			
E1-Serious Foul Play	6		
E2-Violent Conduct	8		
-Spits at opponent/person	0		
E4-Denies goal opportunity by handling ball	2		
E5-Denis goal opportunity by FK/PK offense	1		
E6-Language offenses	3		
E7-2nd YC in match	16		
E8- Excessive Celebration	1		
Total	37		

1 Player received 6 cards

5 Player received 5 cards

7 Players received 4 cards

23 Players received 3 cards

54 Players received 2 cards

2 Coaches received 3 cards

3 Coaches received 2 cards

Spring, 2008 Soccer Card Report

Total Reports	108	Ejections	5	Red Cards	5
Positive Reports	2	Coaches	1	Hard Reds	4
Negative Reports	106	Players	4	Soft Reds	1

Foul Summary		
Foul	#	
Dissent	17	9 Players received 2 Yellow cards
Excessive Force	6	
Tackle from Behind	2	
Hard Tackle	14	
Persistent Infringement	12	
Pushing	2	
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	22	
Grabbing/Holding	2	
Delay of Game	2	
Fouls v. Keeper	2	
Encroachment	4	
Profanity	1	
Equipment violations	5	
Language	0	
Handballs	2	
Charging	0	
Kicking opponent	3	
Tripping	3	
Played the Man not the Ball	5	
Retaliation	1	
Substitution violations	1	
Total	106	

Spring, 2009 Soccer Card Report

Total Reports	70	Ejections	6	Red Cards	6
Positive Reports	0	Coaches	2	Hard Reds	3
Negative Reports	70	Players	4	Soft Reds	3
		Others	0		

<u>Foul Summary</u>	
Foul	#
<u>Yellow Card Offenses</u>	
C1 - Unsporting Behavior	43
C2 - Dissent by word or action	15
C3 - Persistent Infringement	4
C4 - Delays restart of play	0
C5 - Fails to respect distance	1
C6-Enters field of play illegally	0
C7-Leaves field illegally	0
Equipment violation	11
Total	63
<u>Red Card Offenses</u>	
E1-Serious Foul Play	0
E2-Violent Conduct	1
-Spits at opponent/person	0
E4-Denies goal opportunity by handling ball	0
E5-Denis goal opportunity by FK/PK offense	0
E6-Language offenses	2
E7-2nd YC in match	3
Total	6

Observations
One report was for poor behavior of fans.

0 Players received 5 Cards
0 Players received 4 cards
1 Players received 3 cards
9 Players received 2 cards

0 Coaches received 3 cards
3 Coaches received 2 cards

Spring, 2010 Soccer Card Report

Total Reports	104	Ejections	5	Red Cards	5
Positive Reports	2	Coaches	1	Hard Reds	3
Negative Reports	102	Players	4	Soft Reds	2
		Others	0		

<u>Foul Summary</u>		
Foul	Code	
<u>Yellow Card Offenses</u>		
C1 - Unsporting Behavior	75	
C2 - Dissent by word or action	9	<u>Observations</u> One report was for poor behavior by a parent.
C3 - Persistent Infringement	7	
C4 - Delays restart of play	1	
C5 - Fails to respect distance	3	
C6-Enters field of play illegally	2	
C7-Leaves field illegally	0	
Equipment violation	11	
Total	97	
<u>Red Card Offenses</u>		
E1-Serious Foul Play	0	
E2-Violent Conduct	1	
E3-Spits at opponent/person	0	
E4-Denies goal opportunity by handling ball	2	
E5-Denis goal opportunity by FK/PK offense	0	
E6-Language offenses	0	
E7-2nd YC in match	2	
Total	5	

0 Players received 5 Cards
0 Players received 4 cards
1 Players received 3 cards
8 Players received 2 cards

0 Coaches received 3 cards
1 Coach received 2 cards