

## PURPOSE FOR RULE CHANGE

- Enforce adherence by players to wear proper and legal equipment, to minimize risk of injury to self or others.
- Reinforce that the responsibility for the player adherence to be “properly equipped” belongs to the coaches.
- Provide for enforcement by officials (who may now give yellow card).

## PREVENTION IS KEY!

- Officials:
  - Take precursory view during warm-ups, bring problems to attention of the player and coach.
  - Reinforce in pre-game to captains and coaches importance of adherence of wearing proper equipment.
  - This is not a “Gotcha!”
- Coaches:
  - Check players before Sportsmanship talk.
  - Inform players of consequences.
  - Discuss questions with referees prior to start of game.

## SITUATION AND INTERPRETATIONS

- Pre-game warm ups.
  - There is no penalty to coach or player, even though less than 15 minutes prior to game time.
  - Referee should inform player to correct prior to the pre-game sportsmanship talk. Point out the problem to the coach.
- Discovery on field before kickoff (before whistle)
  - Player will be sent off for correction, but, game start will not be delayed.
  - Coach may send out another player to start game with full team, or play short until next substitution opportunity.
  - **No card to coach or player at this time.** There is still no game yet.
- After whistle blows to start game, player enters field/or is on field and is improperly equipped, and referee feels coach should have known:
  - Stop game at appropriate time: send player off to correct, and issue yellow card to **head coach**.
  - If more than one player is found with inappropriate equipment at same time issue only one (1) yellow card.

- Player who was properly equipped intentionally removes or changes required equipment.
  - Stop play at appropriate time.
  - Issue yellow card to **player**.
  - Send the player off to correct.
- Player's equipment becomes illegal through course of play (for example, shinguard pops out, shoes come off).
  - Stop play at appropriate time.
  - **No card to anyone.**
  - Ask the player to correct or send to correct during stoppage if possible. Allow substitution if needed.
- In all situations, if a substitute has reported, and the stoppage is a situation that would allow substitute to enter, that substitute may replace player that was sent off. Otherwise, even though a yellow card was issued, a player may NOT substitute off of the bench
- If the player is sent off for blood on the uniform, or for having an open cut, then a substitute may come off of the bench at any dead ball situation. This is an injury, not improper equipment.
- If the player has jewelry that would not normally be visible to a coach (such as under the uniform), then the player will receive the card, not the coach. We will not put the coach into any ethical problem.
- The referee should use common sense in administration of this rule. It is not meant to punish, but rather to assign responsibility to the person that the players most often see.

## ADDITIONAL NOTE

- CHSAA has requested that all cards given to any member of the coaching staff for dissent or unsporting behavior be reported to CHSAA within 24 hours after the game.
- This means the referee will report on all yellow cards, as well as red cards, and records kept by CHSAA.
- The report will provide specific information pertaining to the issuing of the card. CHSAA has not indicated that any actions will be taken for accumulation of yellow cards.
- Reports on players will continue to be made only be for red cards (game ejection). Yellow cards for players will not be reported, unless pertinent to a report for a red card.