



8/24/15

Attention Soccer Officials and Coaches,

A number of you have asked for some guidance and clarification regarding the new NMAA misconduct rule. The following seeks to clarify the various components of the rule. I want to emphasize that the ultimate penalties for a D1 or D9 Misconduct will be issued by the NMAA.

New NMAA Soccer Misconduct Rule interpretation and Q&A.

- A. Four components of the revised D9 Misconduct Card. Only one need be present for a D9 to be issued.
 - 1. Players, coaches and team personnel who leave the team area to join or escalate a fight or altercation (D1 misconduct no longer includes coaches or team personnel).
 - 2. Coaches and team personnel who engage in violent conduct against any person.
 - 3. Players who violently escalate a situation at stoppage of play
 - 4. Players who engage in violent conduct (as per definition in NMAA 7.17.3.A.4) against a defenseless opponent (regardless of whether ball is in play or at stoppage)

- B. Situational examples/Q&A
 - 1. Player A engages in Serious Foul Play. Player B engages in violent conduct as a direct response. Eject both players: A for D3 and B for D9.
 - 2. Same as #1 but Player A reacts to Player B's retaliatory aggression with a punch. Eject both players for D9. *The retaliatory action is exactly the type of action that has caused benches to clear in the past and is what the new D9 category is trying to prevent.*

3. Player A engages in violent conduct by head-butting opponent B during stoppage of play. Opponent B walks away from further confrontation. Eject player A for D1 and use the match report to describe in detail the incident. Do not expand D1 to D9 if the incident does not provide a response or escalation.
4. Same as #3 but opponent B responds by throwing a punch. Eject both players for D9.
5. Same as #3 but both benches empty and various fights ensue. Eject all players and team personnel involved for D9.
6. Players A and B battle shoulder to shoulder for a ball. Player B wins the ball and heads upfield. Player A chases after Player B and drags him/her down from behind by the hair and proceeds to kick him/her repeatedly while on the ground. Eject player A for D9.