



UNDER THE STRIPES

SOCCKER

RULES REFERENCE

COLLEGIATE OFFICIALS QUICK GUIDE

2026-27 NCAA MEN'S & WOMEN'S

CODE & GENDER APPLICATION

NCAA men's and women's soccer share the principal rulebook; verify identified exceptions.

Study aid only. Always use the current official rulebook, interpretations, mechanics manual, state or conference adoptions, bulletins and assignment instructions.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS

REAL OFFICIALS. REAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL IMPACT.

UNDER THE STRIPES NETWORK | VERIFIED JULY 23, 2026

1. Know Which Authority Controls

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rules authority	NCAA sport rulebook, approved interpretations and bulletins.
Mechanics authority	Use the current CCA manual when issued for the sport, plus NCAA coordinator/conference mechanics. CCA is not a separate playing-rules code.
NAIA layer	Most NAIA championship sports use an NCAA rules foundation with NAIA-approved modifications. Check the current NAIA sport manual and host-conference instructions.
Assignment control	The assigner/conference may prescribe crew size, replay availability, timing protocols, uniforms, reports and mechanics without rewriting the playing rule.

Pregame authority check

Topic	Collegiate reference
Code	Confirm NCAA, NAIA or another governing code.
Edition	Confirm rulebook year, interpretations and recent bulletins.
Mechanics	Confirm current manual, crew size, rotations and conference exceptions.
Technology	Confirm clocks, replay/challenge, headsets and approved communication.
Administration	Confirm rosters/lineups, timing personnel, reports and protest procedure.

2. Core Contest Reference

Topic	Collegiate reference
Game	Two 45-minute periods; halftime and overtime/tiebreaker procedures depend on regular-season/championship rules.
Field / players	11 players including goalkeeper; field and goal specifications are in the NCAA code.
Timing	Official timing, clock stops and substitutions differ materially from NFHS and IFAB procedures.
Substitutions	Entry/re-entry limits depend on period, player status and current NCAA provisions.
Misconduct	Cards, ejections, fighting and accumulation/reporting have NCAA-specific consequences.
Video review	Only when authorized; reviewable incidents and procedure are limited by rule.

High-priority officiating focus

Topic	Collegiate reference
Timing	Know when the stadium clock stops, who keeps official time and how to correct an error.
Substitutions	Recognize legal opportunities, beckoning, re-entry limits and injured/bleeding-player procedures.
Misconduct	Record player, time, reason and restart; complete all required postgame reports.
Offside / challenges	Use wait-and-see, assistant-referee communication and a clear foul threshold for tackles and aerial play.

3. Differences and Assignment Notes

Topic	Collegiate reference
Men / women	Core playing rules are largely shared; verify any published gender/competition distinctions.
NAIA	NCAA foundation plus current NAIA soccer modifications and postseason procedures.
Mechanics	Use NCAA/conference referee guidance; do not assume a CCA manual exists for every sport.
Postseason	Overtime and kicks-from-the-penalty-mark procedures may differ from regular season.

Postgame self-review

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rule	Which ruling needs a rule/case-book check before the next game?
Mechanic	Did positioning, coverage and communication match the current manual?
Crew	What information improved or delayed the final decision?
Reports	Were ejections, fights, protests, replay issues and unusual incidents reported on time?

Official reference path

Topic	Collegiate reference
NCAA Playing Rules	https://www.ncaa.org/championships/playing-rules/
NCAA Publications	https://www.ncaapublications.com/
NAIA Rules & Policy	https://www.naia.org/membership/legislative-and-policy/
NAIA Sport Resources	https://www.naia.org/membership/resources/coaches-corner/
CCA manuals	Access the current authorized manual through the collegiate officiating/central hub or publisher.