

Rule Changes from the 2017 GA Soccer Annual General Meeting

Effective **IMMEDIATELY** – including the 2017 Spring season and any 2017 pre/post season tournaments

1. How the Rule reads after the change:

230.5 The referee(s) is in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time the referee arrives at the game site until the referee departs. The referee is empowered to: ...

230.5d Refuse to allow the game to be played if in the referee's judgment, the field is unplayable due to length of the grass, inadequate lines, or other impediments.

Change:

Removes the following wording from **230.5d 1**, which contradicted Rule 220.5c:

- ~~1. Refuse to allow the game to be played if there is not a credentialed coach on the sideline with each team present or, if necessary, a responsible adult identified on the game card and associated with the team.~~

[220.5c states, "In the absence of a credentialed coach, an adult 18 years old or older with a photo ID may assume the duties as game-day coach."]

2. How the Rule reads after the change:

420.1 All teams will be required to have US Youth Soccer player and coach passes provided through Georgia Soccer; these must be either paper or digital. For games played in-house, including Academy games or not scheduled by Georgia Soccer, player and coach passes will be required at the discretion of the participating Affiliates.

Affiliates choosing to not schedule their recreation inter-affiliate play through the Georgia Soccer programs must disclose that they understand that the failure to use player passes may affect the ability to defend the providing of insurance coverages.

Change:

Clarifies that the use of player passes for Academy games is at the club's discretion as long as they understand that the failure to use player passes may affect insurance matters

3. How the Rule reads after the change:

420.3 Referees must check the passes and pre-printed Game Day Rosters before each game and report any discrepancies to both coaches. If the referee fails to perform this duty properly, discovery after the fact of players who played in the game but were not listed on either Game Day Roster will result in the replay of the game at the away team's venue and at the home team's expense.

Change:

Clarifies the Rules to provide the D&P Committee discretion to allow a protested game involving a player eligibility issue to be replayed, because of a referee error, instead of being an automatic forfeit

4. How the Rule reads after the change:

421.2 Club-pass play is permitted for U-12 and older Recreational players; Athena Classic and Academy U-12 players.

421.2a Club pass play from Athena to Classic is allowed but not Classic to Athena.

421.2b Club pass play from Recreational Girls to Recreational Boys is allowed but not Recreational Boys to Recreational Girls

Change:

Removes the following wording from **421.2** to clarify girls being allowed to club pass to boys teams:

421.2 Club-pass play is permitted for U-12 and older Recreational players; Athena Classic and Academy U-12 players. ~~Club pass between Athena, Classic and Recreational Programs is not allowed.~~

5. How the Rule reads after the change:

620.5 For all games in programs U-11 and younger, players shall not deliberately head the ball.

Change:

Adds the word “deliberately” to clarify that it was NOT the intent of the original rule that a free kick should be given if the ball accidentally hits the head of a player – It must be a DELIBERATE attempt to head the ball by the player before an indirect free kick is awarded to the other team.

6. How the Rule reads after the change:

732.2 A player who is sent off may remain on the bench for the remainder of the game provided he/she causes no disruption to the game. Only if the player causes a disruption is he/she to be removed from sight and sound of the game and may not return until the referee crew has left. In such an event a team official or parent must escort the player from the game.

Change:

Inserts **732.2** (and renumbers the subsequent parts of the Rule) to clarify the misconception of referees that sent off players must leave sight and sound of the field in the same way coaches must when they are dismissed – This belief is NOT true, as it is considered a security risk to send a minor away from the field unsupervised.