

**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.