

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL GHSA SOCCER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

There has been a change in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws that everyone needs to be aware. In some instances, this change will supersede NFHS Soccer Rule 7.1.3. You need to be aware of this change in the event it becomes applicable to one of your games during the season.

2007-2008 NFHS Soccer Rule 7.1.3 states the following:

***"In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game may be rescheduled from the start, or restarted from the suspension of play according to state association adoption."***

There is a recent change in the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws under Athletics, Section 10 Soccer, Region/Area Competition, Item C, (page 77) that will supersede this rule for games between teams of the same classification. This change states the following:

***"All soccer matches between schools from the same classification must be played to completion unless the team that is behind chooses not to complete the match. Matches that are interrupted by weather or mechanical difficulties will be replayed from the point of interruption."***

Therefore, if you work a game between two teams of the same classification during the season, you will need to file a complete report(s) to your association secretary.

### **Example:**

A game between two teams of the same classification is suspended due to severe weather and lightning in the 63rd minute. The severe weather does not let up, and the game cannot be resumed that evening. The team that is behind is unwilling to concede the match. Therefore, per the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws, the match must be rescheduled and replayed from the point when play was suspended. Therefore, the head referee must record and report the following information so that the match can be properly restarted at the appointed time by whatever crew of officials is assigned to the remaining portion of the match:

- 1) The time at which the match was suspended (e.g., 63rd minute of the match)
- 2) Based on the circumstances when play was suspended, by which team, from what location on or around the field, and by what method must the play be restarted.
- 3) Report all disqualifications. This must include how many players each team is permitted to have on the field when the remaining portion of the match is played since some disqualifications do not require a team to play short (e.g., Disqualification by 2nd Caution, Disqualification of substitute or substituted player, Disqualification of player at the half time interval, etc.).
- 4) Report all cautions. This also includes players that received only a single caution, since they may receive a second caution in the remaining portion of the match. As a different crew may be assigned to the remaining portion of the match, the officials need to be aware that such a player must be disqualified if they receive another caution.

**NOTE:** Even if the coach of the team that is behind at the time the match is suspended indicates to you that his team intends to concede the match, you must still write your report and include all of the above information. As officials we do not want to become involved in a dispute as to whether or not a given team did or did not concede a match. In the absence of specific instructions from GHSA otherwise, we will leave this for GHSA to confirm. GHSA can then advise our association if the remainder of the match will be played or not.

**Game/Travel Fees:** Since the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws do not explicitly cover this situation, the association secretary will inquire of GHSA on a case-by-case basis to determine what game and travel fees are permitted to bill for each portion of the match.