YELLOW CARD (CAUTION) ACCUMULATION POLICY

It is the intention of the IHSAA to address the issue of the accumulation of yellow cards (cautions) during the soccer season by an individual player or coach. The situations surrounding red cards (4-3 Ejections) are dealt with directly under IHSAA Rule 4-3 and will not change. The consequences for the accumulation of excessive yellow cards will be as follows:

1. Beginning with the first regular season contest, any player or coach who receives a total of five (5) yellow cards in one season shall be suspended from and may not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest at that level and all contests in the interim, including postseason games. Suspended players or coaches must serve their suspension in the next scheduled contest. If the total is reached in the final postseason contest, the suspension will be served in the first contest of the following year. If a senior is to serve a suspension, it shall be rolled over to the first contest of the next sport in which the athlete is involved. The IHSAA strongly recommends that school administration meet with any coach/player who reaches suspension level to address the situation and develop protocols for improvement.
2. If a player or coach receives an additional five (5) yellow cards after the first suspension, an additional two game penalty would apply and the process would be repeated. See below:
   5 yellows = 1 game suspension
   10 yellows = additional 2 game suspension
   15 yellows = additional 3 game suspension, and so on.
3. A red card with 4-3 <u>not</u> in effect will count as two (2) yellow cards.
4. Coaches will be responsible for tracking yellow cards accumulated by their players and/or team personnel (coaches included) and report to their athletic directors. Each school is responsible for maintaining accurate records of all yellow cards received during the regular season and postseason tournaments. Schools must notify the IHSAA when the player or coach reaches suspension level. *See "Card Accumulation Notice", Addendum #2
5. Officials shall include yellow card information in the Arbiter Game Reports when possible.
6. Yellow cards received in pre-season scrimmages or jamborees will not count towards accumulation totals.
7. Any illegal participation of suspended players or coaches may result in fines, sanctions and elimination from district and state play.
8. Any player/coach found guilty of getting him/herself deliberately cautioned will be given an additional match ban.
9. At the beginning of postseason play, yellow card count will reset to "0".
10. Postseason yellow card accumulation will be as follows:
    3 yellows = 1 game suspension*
    6 yellows = additional 2 game suspension*
    9 yellows = additional 3 game suspension, and so on*

    **Note: If a player or coach has reached suspension level during the regular season and receives 3 or more yellow cards during the postseason, the number of games suspended during the postseason will move to the appropriate level of suspension.*