



## **The New Carding Procedure Additional Information and Approved Rulings**

(Issued: 2/21/2007; applies to USL and NCAA rules)

Questions have arisen about when a card will count towards the three card limit before a team will play short handed. While the rule book says the cards that count are for “on field” offenses, certain fouls committed by players in the bench area will also count towards the cards a team will receive and then play without a substitute. For example, if a player who has been carded or called for a foul leaves the field and goes to her bench area but continues with a very blatant dissent about the call and receives a card, that card will count. If one of her teammates on the bench commits this same type of offense and receives a card, that card will count. Dangerous play on the field that is carded AND bad behavior by the players that is carded no matter where it occurs will all count towards the three card limit.

The types of cardable offenses that will not be added to the card count include procedural offenses such as entering the game before the 3-minute penalty time has expired, or a non-playing team member leaving the team bench area during the game. Cards given to the coaching staff or non-playing team personnel (manager, trainer, etc.) will also not be added to the card count.

If a teammate who is on the bench receives a card after the three card limit has been reached, the head coach will select a player from those on the field who will leave the game with no substitute allowed for three minutes. The player from the bench who received the card may not enter the game for three minutes of elapsed playing time. The player designated by the coach to leave the game may substitute for another player once play resumes.

A number of approved rulings are listed below to help illustrate:

**Situation 1:** A Red player receives a card for a slash and it's the teams 4<sup>th</sup> card. Her teammate who is on the field then swears at the umpire about the call and is also carded. Does the team now play two short?

**Response:** Yes, the player who slashed is out for 3 minutes with no substitute allowed AND the player who swore is also out for 3 minutes with no substitute allowed.

**Situation 2:** A Blue player receives a card for a check to the head and it's her teams 3<sup>rd</sup> card. As she's leaving the field the head coach swears at the umpire because she didn't like the call. Does this card on the coach count and does the team play short?

**Response:** The coach is carded but the card does not count towards the three card limit. The Blue player must leave the game for 3 minutes of elapsed playing time and a substitute must take her place.

**Situation 3:** Red #6 receives a card for slashing. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> card received by her team. Red #8 who is standing in the bench area then swears at the umpire about the call and also receives a card. Does the Red team play short?

**Response:** Yes, the card given to Red #8 for swearing counts as the 4<sup>th</sup> card received by the red team. Red #6 who received the card for slashing (3<sup>rd</sup> card) sits out for 3 minutes and a substitute takes her place. The head coach must select a player from the field who will leave the game and no substitute may take her place. Red #8 may not enter the game for 3 minutes of elapsed playing time. The player designated by the coach to leave the game may substitute for another player once play resumes.

**Situation 4:** A Blue player receives a yellow card for a check to the head. She leaves the field, throws a tantrum on the sideline, and she receives another card for her inappropriate behavior. Does the second card count in the card count?

**Response:** Yes, the second card will count. The player was inappropriately expressing her displeasure with the first card. It doesn't matter if she threw her tantrum before or after she crossed the sideline.

**Situation 5:** A team time out has been called. As the teams pass each other on the way to their benches, Green #2 hits Blue #7. Green #2 then receives a red card. Is this card counted in the team fouls that go toward playing short?

**Response:** Yes, the fact that this happened while time was out does not matter.

**Situation 6:** The Green team has received a 5<sup>th</sup> card and is playing short. Green scores but the umpires then realize that Green is playing with a full team even though the penalty time has not expired. Does the goal stand?

**Response:** No, the goal does not stand since it was scored when the attacking team had an illegal player on the field (Rule 4-9g).

Who receives the red card? It may or may not be a red card. If the player sitting out for the 5<sup>th</sup> card is the one who returned early, then she is given an additional card for misconduct, a second yellow card, and is permanently removed from the game (Rule 7-28). If another player on the team entered early in place of her teammate, then she receives a yellow card for misconduct (Rule 6-8h). If she has already gotten a yellow card previously then she is out of the game, but if this is her first card she must sit out for 3 minutes and then will be allowed to return.

Does the card count in the count? No, this is a procedural error and will not count in the card count.

### **Goalie's Receiving Cards**

**Question:** What will happen when the goalkeeper receives a card and must leave the field and the team has a second dressed goalie?

**Response:** As in past years, the goalkeeper must exit the field for three minutes and the backup goalie will enter the game. When this occurs after the three card limit has been reached, the coach will select a player from those on the field who will leave the game with no substitute allowed for three minutes.

The following procedures shall be followed when the three card limit is reached and the goalie receives a yellow card:

**One dressed goalie**

- Goalie remains in the game.
- Coach selects a field player to serve the three minute penalty.
- No substitute allowed.

**Two dressed goalies**

- Goalie must leave the game for three minutes.
- Backup goalie is allowed to enter the game.
- Coach selects a field player to serve the three minute penalty.
- No substitute allowed except the backup goalie.

While not a change to the rules, it is worth noting here that should the goalie receive a red card she is suspended from any further participation in that game even if she is the only dressed goalie for her team.