

Substitution Procedures in Wisconsin
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Referees: You may wish to print this out and bring it with you to your games in case of confusion with the new substitution procedures in Wisconsin. Referees are encouraged to briefly discuss this with both coaches prior to the beginning of each match early in the season to avoid confusion during play.

The following was announced on www.wisref.org on July 26, 2008:

“Effective immediately, substitutions will be permitted at any stoppage of play at all levels of play for games played within Wisconsin.”

There have been a number of questions about this. To help clear up any confusion, we are sending this email to all referees in Wisconsin.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN WISCONSIN

Q. Can a team substitute while the ball is in play (i.e. on the fly)?

A. NO! Substitutions can only take place during a stoppage of play.

Q. Can a team substitute on a free kick?

A. YES. A free kick is awarded because of a foul that results in a stoppage of play.

Q. Can a referee deny a substitution request?

A. No, assuming all of the procedural requirements (see Law 3 below) have been met. However, if the substitutes are not ready when the game is stopped, the requirements have not been met. This is particularly important to recognize when a team wishes to take a quick restart. See 3.5 below from the **ADVICE TO REFEREES ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME** published by U.S. Soccer Federation.

Q. What if it is obvious that a coach is practicing gamesmanship and sending a substitute at every stoppage?

A. How did referees handle this when substitutions were only for particular stoppages? Referees should inform the teams that time will be added for time lost due to substitutions. Note to referees: that generally stops the problem.

Q. Are the number of substitutes a team can use limited, as stated in the Laws of the Game?

A. Youth and amateur games in Wisconsin will still have unlimited substitutes (i.e. can reenter the game), unless otherwise noted in the league rules (i.e. State Championships).

FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

LAW 3 – The Number of Players

Substitution Procedure

To replace a player by a substitution, the following conditions must be observed:

- the referee is informed before any proposed substitution is made
- a substitute only enters the field of play after the player is being replaced has left and after receiving a signal from the referee
- a substitute only enters the field of play at the halfway line and during a stoppage in the match
- a substitution is completed when a substitute enters the field of play
- from that moment, the substitute becomes a player and the player he has replaced ceases to be a player
- a player who has been replaced take no further part in the match (PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT APPLICABLE TO YOUTH OR AMATEUR GAMES IN WISCONSIN UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BY THE COMPETITION RULES SUCH AS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – YOUTH AND AMATEUR GAMES PERMIT UNLIMITED SUBSTITUTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN COMPETITION RULES)

- all substitutes are subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee, whether called upon to play or not

LAW 7 – The Duration of the Match

Allowance for Time Lost

Allowance is made in either period for all time lost through:

- substitution(s)
- assessment of injury to players
- removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment
- wasting time
- any other cause

The allowance for time lost is at the discretion of the referee.

ADVICE TO REFEREE ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME

3.5 PREVENTING DELAY DURING SUBSTITUTION

Referees should prevent unnecessary delays due to the substitution process. One source of delay is a request for a substitution that occurs just as a player starts to put the ball back into play. This often (incorrectly) results in the restart being called back and retaken. Another common source of delay is a substitute who is not prepared to take the field when the request to substitute is made. In each case, the referee should order play to be restarted despite the request and inform the coach that the substitution can be made at the next opportunity.

The referee shall not prevent a team from restarting play if the substitute had not reported to the appropriate official before play stopped.

3.6 ALLOWING SUBSTITUTIONS AND ADDING TIME

Except for situation described in 3.5 (above), referees may not ignore or deny permission for a legal substitution that is properly requested. Although Law 3 requires that the referee be “informed before any proposed substitution is made,” this does not mean that the referee can deny permission for any reason other than to ensure that the substitution conforms to the Law. Even if it seems that the purpose is to waste time, the referee cannot deny the request, but should exercise the power granted in Law 7 to add time lost.

State Referee Committee

Joseph Krzyzaniak, State Referee Administrator

Sue Walter, State Youth Referee Administrator

Thomas Mesalk, State Director of Assessment

Jonathan Meersman, State Director of Instruction

Paul Beck, State Assignment Coordinator