

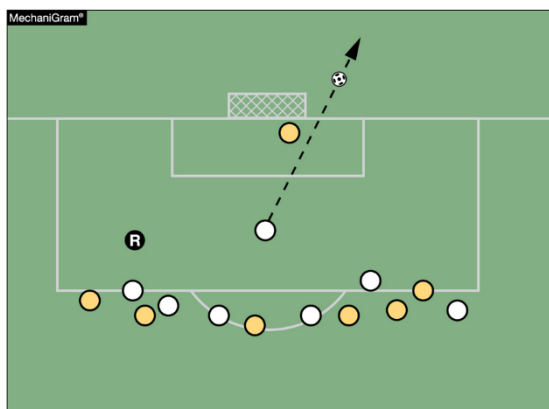


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NFHS Soccer Weekly Rule Interpretations

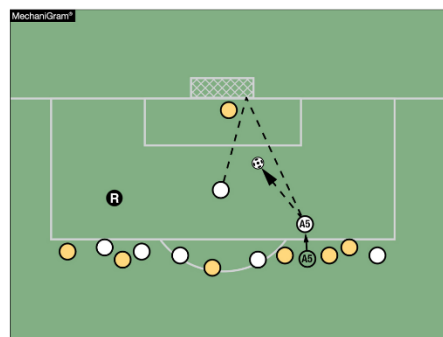
Rule 14 Penalty Kick

The changes to Rule 14 ensure that encroachment is now only penalized if the offense has a clear impact on the penalty kick. Goalkeepers now receive a warning for a first offense rather than an immediate caution, acknowledging that such infractions often stem from mis-anticipation. Regarding the kicker, the revisions continue to allow for deceptive movements and stutter-stepping during the run-up; however, the change strictly prohibits feinting once the approach to the ball is completed. Finally, in rare instances where both the kicker and goalkeeper offend simultaneously, the kicker is penalized, as their illegal feinting is typically the catalyst for the goalkeeper's infraction. The penalty chart is also updated and reformatted for clarity.



Encroachment is penalized only if the offense has a clear impact on the penalty kick. If players from either team enter the penalty area or arc early but have no effect on the kicker, goalkeeper, or the immediate play, officials should allow the result of the kick to stand without penalty.

Encroaching attacker A5 impacts the play. **Penalty:** The defending team is awarded an indirect free kick from where A5 kicked the ball.



SITUATION: Player A1 takes a penalty kick and runs up to the ball. Before the ball is kicked, defender B8 enters the penalty area early and (a) A1 kicks the ball into the goal; (b) A1 kicks the ball over the crossbar, unaware of B8's encroachment; (c) A1 is not affected by B8's encroachment and A1 kicks the ball which deflects off the goalkeeper over the crossbar; (d) A1 is not distracted by B8's encroachment and kicks the ball at the goalkeeper who catches the ball. The referee does not penalize the encroachment. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** In

all cases, the encroachment is not penalized because there is no impact, and play is restarted with a (a) kickoff; (b) goal kick; (c) corner kick; in (d), play continues. [14-1-2]

SITUATION: Player A2 takes a penalty kick and runs up to the ball. Before the ball is kicked, defender B7 enters the penalty area early and (a) A2 is distracted by B7 and kicks the ball into the goal; (b) A2 is distracted by B7 and kicks the ball over the crossbar; (c) A2 is affected by B7 and kicks the ball which is caught and held by the goalkeeper; (d) B7 collects the ball that rebounds off the goal post after A2's kick; (e) B7 challenges opponent A10 for the ball after A2's kick rebounds off the goalkeeper. **RULING:** Legal in (a); illegal in (b), (c), (d), and (e). **COMMENT:** In (a), the encroachment is not penalized because there was no impact, and play is restarted with a kickoff. In (b), (c), (d), and (e), the encroachment is penalized because the infringement impacted play, and the penalty kick is retaken. [14-1-2]

SITUATION: After the referee whistles for the penalty kick to be taken, but before the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper (a) shuffles side to side, staying in-line with the goal line; (b) straddles the goal line with one foot behind the goal line and one foot in front of the goal line; (c) steps forward with one foot and keeps their back foot on the goal line; (d) steps forward with one foot and raises their back foot maintaining it above and in-line with the goal line; (e) jumps backward standing with both feet behind the goal line to get a running start; (f) jumps forward standing with both feet in front of the goal line. **RULING:** Legal in (a), (b), (c) and (d). Illegal in (e) and (f). **COMMENT:** The spirit of the game requires the goalkeeper to have both feet on/above the goal line until the ball is put into play. Standing with both feet behind the goal line should not be allowed as it enables a running start to defend the kick. Likewise, coming forward off the goal line with both feet is not permitted as it creates an unfair advantage. Goalkeeper encroachment is only penalized if the ball does not enter the goal and the infringement impacts the kicker or the goalkeeper makes a save. [14-1-3]

SITUATION: Team A has been awarded a penalty kick. Before the referee whistles for the kick to be taken, the defending goalkeeper (a) stands directly in front of the penalty mark overseeing the kicker positioning the ball; (b) stands on the goal line with their back to the kicker; (c) shakes the goal posts rattling the goal frame; (d) jumps up and down on the goal line shouting; (e) jumps up and down on the goal line waving their arms. **RULING:** Illegal in (a), (b), (c) and (d); legal in (e). **COMMENT:** The goalkeeper may not unfairly distract the kicker including delaying the kick, intimidating the kicker, or touching the goal posts, crossbar or net. The goalkeeper may be warned or cautioned for blatant, repeated, or subsequent offenses. This behavior must be discouraged by the referee before whistling for the kick to be taken. If the goalkeeper unfairly distracts the kicker during the penalty kick and the goal is not scored, the kick is retaken. [14-1-3]