

Memorandum

From: South Dakota State Soccer Association

To: SDSSA High School Soccer programs

Subject: Time Out Due to Heat

Date: August 27, 2013



High School Coaching Staff,

Due to the high heat/humidity that most of the state is experiencing, there have been inquiries regarding protocol for water breaks during high school matches. We also have had questions regarding whether practices should be cancelled.

1. All High School games in South Dakota follow SDHSAA/NFHS rules for these items. Below is the information from SDHSAA NFHS rule addendum for high school soccer in South Dakota. As noted below, water breaks or "time-outs due to heat" are allowed as per SDHSAA/NFHS rules. Coaching staff and referees should follow the guidelines as outlined below and confirm with both teams and officials prior to the match if the temperatures call for this action. **Note:** The clock shall be stopped for these "time-outs".

Time-Out Due To Heat

Officials are authorized to call a "time-out" in the event of heat/humidity. The officials are authorized to call time somewhere close to the mid-point of each half. It should be taken at a time when it will not strategically benefit or work to the disadvantage of either team. The decision as to whether time-outs will be taken should be dealt with prior to the start of the game. The rationale for taking these time-outs is concern for the safety and health of the athletes. The time-outs will enable the athletes to cool down a bit and also get a drink of water or some other appropriate fluid. In extenuating circumstances more than one time-out may be taken each half.

As we are dealing with the high temperatures, please be familiar with this procedure/rule. Referees and coaching staff should use good judgment at game time to determine the need for these "heat time-outs".

2. In addition to "time-out due to heat", we would also remind you that all SDSSA teams have a signed agreement with their school to follow SDHSAA policy and procedures. Those rules would also include the suspension of all school practices (if the school has determined that other sports are also cancelled) for your team's school. If the school has not determined that practices will be suspended, we encourage ALL coaches to proceed with caution during practice and use good judgment on the length and type of practice you conduct. Make sure you take several water breaks and if possible, hold any practices in the morning when the temperatures are a bit cooler.

Please consider utilizing this time-out for contests and practices being conducted in less than favorable conditions, as the health and safety of our student athletes is our top priority.

South Dakota State Soccer Association
High School Committee