

New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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September 9, 2014

Section Executive Directors,

In response to several inquiries I have received pertaining to soccer officials remaining after a game for the post-game handshake, I would like to provide the following interpretation and recommendation regarding this topic.

The 2014-15 NFHS Soccer Rules Book (page 93) under Postgame Duties of Officials states "*after verifying the score, leave the field together immediately.*"

Since our association's membership abides by NFHS soccer rules and no waiver of this rule currently exists, it is my recommendation sections should not require, encourage nor recommend officials to remain on the field for post-game handshakes. Your section could be subjecting itself and the association to liability if an official were to be injured or assaulted during a post-game handshake, since NFHS rules clearly state they should leave the field after verifying the score.

I completely understand the rationale for encouraging officials to remain for this positive practice of sportsmanship; however I am concerned about the liability which may exist.

If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to this correspondence, please let me know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Zayas
NYS PHSAA Executive Director
518.925.6631

CC:

Mike Andrew, NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer Coordinator

Vasile-Cozzo, NYSPHSAA Girls Soccer Coordinator

Ed McLaughlin, President- New York State Certified Officials of Soccer