

“NISOA Mechanic for Issuing a Second Caution”

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I am receiving multiple inquiries from NISOA officials regarding the proper mechanic for the display of cards when a player commits a second cautionable offense in the same game.

The NISOA 2008 Preseason Guide contains an article on Page 1 entitled “Second Card is Always Red,” which sets forth an incorrect officiating mechanic with regard to NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Rule 5.5.3. The Preseason Guide article incorrectly states that the referee should not display a yellow card when issuing a second caution to a player. This is not correct and wrongfully interprets a 2008-2009 clarification of R.5.5.3, which addresses the issue of a second caution for Accumulated Cautions and Game Suspensions purposes pursuant to Rule 12.18.1. A player cannot be “charged” with a second caution in the same game for card accumulation purposes within R.12.18.1, but this clarification does not change the NISOA officiating mechanic when a player commits a second cautionable offense.

The proper officiating mechanic when a player commits a second cautionable offense is as follows: **The referee shall display a yellow card, followed immediately by a red card. See R.5.5.3.**