



Soccer Caution Accumulation Quick Reference

With the new card accumulation rule passed this summer, your pre- and post-game routine will directly impact the accurate reporting of caution accumulation numbers this season.

New for 2026-27: Accumulated Cautions (Rule 12.5.1) All yellow cards issued to bench personnel during a game shall be charged against the head coach for the purposes of accumulation. *Note: During a game, a head coach is not penalized for cards given to assistants, but the totals after the game shall reflect the accumulation of all cards to the coaching staff.*

At the national office, we highly recommend the following procedures pre- and post-game to ensure cautions are reported accurately.

Pre-game:

- Identify the referee and introduce yourself to the crew
- Establish when and where you will meet the referee after the match.
- Obtain each team's active roster and confirm the head coach for each team for that match.
- Have coaches scratch any players who will not participate.
- Remember: Scratched players are considered **bench personnel** for that match.
 - **Bench Personnel Includes:**
 - Assistant coaches
 - Other rostered team staff on the bench
 - Players scratched from that day's active roster
 - Any other bench personnel identified by the officials
 - **Active Players:**
 - Players listed on that day's active roster continue to accumulate cautions individually, just as they always have.
- **Best Practice:** Include a game comment identifying the individual who actually received the caution, even if the caution is charged to the head coach for accumulation purposes.

Post-game:

- Meet with officials to verify all cards issued.
- Confirm the individual the card(s) was issued to:
 - an **active player**, or
 - **bench personnel**
- Record comments identifying the individual cautioned.
- Obtain the officials' signature on the box score.

Card accumulation reporting

- Update your accumulation records to reflect cards issued during that match as follows

Scenario	In-match Result	Post-match Result
An active player on that day's roster receives a yellow card	Card issued to this individual and identified as normal	The yellow card remains with this individual. <i>Update individuals' accumulation totals</i>
The head coach receives a yellow card	In the match comment regarding the card "Issued to head coach"	The yellow card remains with the head coach. <i>Update the head coaches' accumulation totals</i>
Yellow cards issued to any bench personnel	In the match comment regarding the card "Issued to (assistant, manager, graduate assistant, trainer, inactive student-athlete)"	The issued yellow card(s) count against the head coach's accumulation. <i>Update the head coaches' accumulation totals</i>
A yellow and red card is issued to any bench personnel	In the match comment regarding the yellow and red card, "Issued to (assistant, manager, graduate assistant, trainer, inactive student-athlete)"	The issued yellow card counts against the head coach's accumulation. <i>Update the head coaches' accumulation totals</i>
*NOTE: If the program head coach is absent for any reason, all accumulation totals will go to the acting head coach for that match. Red cards are subject to NAIA Bylaws for purposes of accumulating ejections		