

NCYSA DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS EDUCATION

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PRE-SEASON D&A INFORMATION

A HELPFUL GUIDE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

PRESENTED BY: MARK MOORE (MARK@NCSOCCER.ORG)

LARRY TAYLOR (LTAYLOR@NCSOCCER.ORG)

NC YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION – 336-856-7529 (W)

WWW.NCSOCCER.ORG

PRE-SEASON D&A INFORMATION

We hope the following information will help your association in informing and educating your membership in some of the rules and guidelines of NCYSA Discipline and Appeals on game days. Please email Mark Moore (mark@ncsoccer.org) (best method) with any questions, or call 336-856-7529 x228.

EDUCATION

We believe if we provide as much information as possible to both our member organizations and subsequently to their individual members (players, coaches, and spectators), it could help alleviate potential problems, as well help all to understand the various processes and guidelines we all go by. By sharing this document and/or holding pre-season meetings, the local D&A Liaisons are instrumental in the process and we thank you!

We have [Educational Flyers](#) you may find helpful on the website under HOME>D&A>EDUCATION.

DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS MISSION STATEMENT

“THERE IS NO ACTION THAT JUSTIFIES A REACTION OF MISCONDUCT.”

It's simple. Whether the referee is “right or wrong” (their calls are subjective to their vision of the game), the coach, the player, nor the spectator has the right to question, or otherwise engage in misconduct.

(Example parent statement to NCYSA D&A): *“He pushed my son from behind and when it became apparent the referee wasn't going to call anything, so my son took matters into his own hands.”*

NO! That “inaction” does not justify the reaction of (in this case) throwing a retaliatory punch.

PRE-GAME

- Know the NCYSA's Rules. Know the Laws of the Game.
- Know the NCYSA Code of Conduct.
- Have your Match Roster ready (see attachment on “no handwritten names”).
- Have your player passes. No pass = No play.
- Have the adults set the tone. Coaches and spectators can be VERY instrumental in how players will react and play, especially during potentially volatile situations.

DURING THE GAME

ADULT BEHAVIOR

In the Spring, we had 25 adults ejected accounting for nearly 14% of all ejections. In the Fall of 2017, 18 of 40 ejections were adults (45%). The vast majority of these adult ejections were in the 14U ages and below. We hope this info helps you in identifying your target audience!

THE REFEREE DIDN'T WARN ME BEFORE SENDING ME OFF.

While a warning might be nice, it isn't required. If the Referee deems the behavior or misconduct unacceptable, they can send you off with no warning.

EJECTION OF A PLAYER

Players ejected from the game are to remove their playing jersey and sit on the bench (see attachment on player ejections). If the misconduct is egregious, the Referee can instruct the player to leave the playing area (must be escorted by a Risk Managed individual). Ejected players remaining on the bench are under the control of their coach (the coach has responsibility for the bench area). If a Referee must address misconduct from the bench players, it is the coach's responsibility to control the situation. Failure to do so can result in sanctions to the coach, as well as the Referee's right to abandon the match.

SPECTATOR SIDE OF THE FIELD

NCYSA strongly encourages spectators to set up directly opposite their team bench and remain in that area. Spectators who choose to "move freely" up and down the sideline could be subject to discipline from the referee – who would have the appropriate coach address the issue.

Let's remember: This is a game for the enjoyment of the kids. Parents who roam the sidelines, yelling (whether positively or negatively) could disrupt the enjoyment for everyone! Let's show consideration.

SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

The coach is also responsible for the conduct of spectators and their spectator side of the field. If there is a situation involving spectators, the coach will be asked to handle it, and possibly be directed to ask the spectator to leave. **THE REFEREE WILL REQUIRE THE COACHES TO HANDLE THEIR SPECTATORS!** Failure to control spectators can result in the Referee in abandoning the match. If a match is abandoned, NCYSA Discipline and Appeals and the NCYSA Classic Vice President will determine the outcome based on the official Referee's Report.

Please note: Misconduct by an adult *could* require a longer sanction, as we hold the adults to a higher standard and an example for our players!

MISCONDUCT TOWARDS AN OFFICIAL

There may not be 100% agreement between individuals during a match. But disagreements can be civil and within the guidelines of our NCYSA Code of Conduct. Do not curse. Do not touch another person (especially a Referee). If the Referee states "that is enough, no more", and you continue, it is at your own peril.

If you get close enough to an official to yell and spittle flies from your mouth (inadvertently), it can be considered Referee Assault (it has happened). Don't follow the referee to the parking lot (it's been done). Don't wait for the Referee outside the restroom (it's been done). Misconduct towards an Official is a very serious allegation and could require a formal D&A Hearing, with the potential of a lengthy sanction.

CAN WE QUESTION THE EJECTION TO DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

You can. But to be honest, the process isn't simple. If it were, then the nearly 200 ejections we had last spring would all be questioned!

The Referee's Report (match report and subsequent Supplemental Report of Ejection) is the Official Report of the Match.

This is important to know. We rely on the officials to be impartial. However, if you feel strongly that the Referee was somehow in error, be proactive and send a written report (email is fine – mark@ncsoccer.org) describing the incident, the send-off, and why you believe the referee is in error. If you have supporting witnesses, gather those written statements and send them also. The D&A Chairman (Larry Taylor) will take a look at all documents submitted and make a decision. **NOTE: Phone calls do not help. We need written statements supporting your appeal of the sanction.**

WE HAD SOMEONE EJECTED, BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM NCYSA

That can happen occasionally. It means the Referee hasn't sent us the report for that match. If you have a player, coach or spectator sent off from a match and have no notification from NCYSA Discipline and Appeals, the ejected individual should sit out there next scheduled match – regardless of the reason for ejection. Send an email to Mark Moore (mark@ncsoccer.org) stating the ejection and the match sat out.

Once NCYSA gets the official report, we'll notate the sit out was completed. If the ejection was for fighting or some other egregious behavior, NCYSA D&A could assess additional games.

NOTE: For example, if the individual is ejected on Saturday and have a match scheduled on Sunday, have them sit out the Sunday match. If NCYSA still doesn't have the official report, the ejected player may play the following match after the sit out with no penalty. If additional sit outs are warranted, they will be assessed once the report is received.

ACCUMULATION OF CARDS

CARD ACCUMULATIONS

Card accumulation totals start fresh at the beginning of the new seasonal year. Any penalties not fulfilled are carried over to the new seasonal year. Card totals accumulated in the Fall, carry over to the Spring.

Players receiving four (4) cautions in four (4) separate league matches, will have a one (1) game suspension (receiving two cautions for an ejection in the same match does not count toward this total).

If a player receives three (3) ejections in a seasonal year, they will sit out the sanction for the ejection, and have one (1) additional sit out for receiving three ejections.

Please see the [D&A Manual](#) for the complete list of card accumulation rules.

INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2010, NCYSA had approximately 768 Spring Classic teams. That number rose to 1147 in 2017, up 67%.

In 2010, NCSRA (North Carolina Soccer Referee's Association, the governing body for Referees) had 3180 certified Referees. That number declined in 2017 to 2874 – down 10%.

In 2018, the number of certified Referees was at just over 1800. Over 600 of those have had less than one (1) year experience.

Just as you expect your players, coaches and parents to learn, we all should expect the Referees be given the chance to learn! While you wouldn't find it acceptable to yell at a 12-year old trying to play the game, why should we think it's appropriate to yell at an official?

Let's give EVERYONE a chance to learn – and we'll all be better!

NCYSA VISIT

WOULD YOU LIKE NCYSA D&A TO VISIT YOUR ASSOCIATION?

If you'd like for NCYSA Discipline and Appeals to visit your Association to speak to your Board, Coaches or whomever, just shoot us an email or give us a call. We'll do all we can to help!