

Misconduct Management

Understanding Discipline and How to Track It All



Discipline & Protest Sanctioning Guidelines

Offense/Infraction	Offender	1st Send Off Discipline	2nd Send Off Discipline	3rd or more Send Off Discipline
Any general misconduct not specifically included below	PLAYER, COACH, SPECTATOR	1 game	2 games	3 games
Accumulating 3 Yellow Cards in 3 different games	PLAYER, COACH	1 game	1 game	1 game
Intentionally playing an ineligible player, including Club Pass violations	PLAYER, COACH	2 games	3 games	4 games
Receiving a second caution in the same game	PLAYER, COACH	1 game	2 games	3 games
Offensive, insulting, or abusive language to any participant other than a referee.	PLAYER, COACH, SPECTATOR	2 games	3 games	4 games
Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity	PLAYER, COACH	1 game	2 games	3 games
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	PLAYER, COACH	2 games	3 games	4 games
Violent Conduct	PLAYER, COACH	2 games	3 games	4 games
Serious foul play	PLAYER, COACH	1 game	2 games	3 games
Referee Abuse to a referee under 18 years of age <i>Please See Important Definitions below for: ABUSE</i>	PLAYER, COACH, SPECTATOR	4 games	Immediate Suspension Referral to STYSA	Immediate Suspension Referral to STYSA
Referee Abuse <i>Please See Important Definitions below for: ABUSE</i>	PLAYER, COACH, SPECTATOR	3 games	4 games	Immediate Suspension Referral to STYSA
Referee abuse to a referee under 18 years of age	STYSA defines ABUSE as "a verbal statement or physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to an individual. It also includes verbal abuse which is threatening, cursing, or demeaning a person or any member of his or her family." Once the abuse is reported, if the referee is determined to be under the age of 18, the suspension increases by one game. The determination will be made by League administration			
Referee Assault <i>Please See Important Definitions below for: ASSAULT</i>	PLAYER, COACH, SPECTATOR	Immediate Suspension Referral to STYSA	Immediate Suspension Referral to STYSA	Immediate Suspension Referral to STYSA
Referee Assault	STYSA defines ASSAULT as "an intentional act of physical violence. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts: hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, choking, spitting at or on; grabbing or bodily running into; the act of kicking or throwing any object at another that could inflict injury; damaging a uniform or personal property; i.e., car, equipment (cards, whistle, notebook, etc.) or knocking equipment or other objects out of the hand."			

4.2.7. **Competition Official.** An individual (paid or volunteer) appointed by an appropriate administrative authority to act in an official capacity as a field marshal, assignor, or scheduler, or in another administrative support role. **(Added 2.22.2015)**

4.2.17. **Suspension** is defined as follows:

- A coach, assistant coach or trainer may not attend or observe one or more matches and may not participate in warm-up or half-time activities of the match or matches.
- A player may not play in one or more matches **with the team they are currently rostered to or with another team using the Club Player Pass system.** The player may attend the next match or matches played, but not in uniform.

4.9.2. **Responsibilities of Coaches, Players, and Associations**

(2) Cautions and Ejections tracking.

- Coaches are responsible for maintaining their individual cautions and ejections and the individual cautions and ejections of their players. Players are also responsible for maintaining their individual cautions and ejections.

It is **crucial** teams have a system of recording Cautions and Ejections. A player or coach who is found to have participated in a game they were ineligible for will incur additional disciplinary actions including but not limited to forfeits and associated fines. You can use your own system of recording or use the Penalty Point Report form to print [HERE](#) or in Excel format [HERE](#).

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE SYSTEM – HOW TO AND MUST KNOW

During the Winter 2023 STYSA GBM, the 4.9 section of the rule was thoroughly updated and is now divided into 4 parts:

Part 1: 4.9.1 Purpose

Part 2: 4.9.2 Provisions. This section is designed to set the principles upon which all disciplinary actions are based. Pay close attention to:

4.9.2(2) Ejected Coach, Assistant Coach or Trainer - If a coach, assistant coach, or trainer is ejected, he / she will be suspended for the remainder of that day with any team, in any capacity; and for the next game(s) played by the team which was playing the game from which he / she was ejected as illustrated in the Discipline & Protest Sanctioning Guidelines table below.

4.9.2(9) Misconduct by Fan / Supporter. The parents, fans, or supporters of any STYSA team, by attending a STYSA sponsored event, subject themselves to the jurisdiction of the member association and its affiliates, the STYSA Appeals Committee, STYSA Executive Committee and the STYSA Governing Board.

Part 3: 4.9.3 Responsibilities of Coaches, Players, and Associations. Be sure to note:

4.9.3(1) Maintain Control of Fans and Sideline. Coaches are required to maintain control of their players and the team's fans on the sideline. A coach or an assistant coach may be cautioned and / or ejected by a referee for the misconduct of a fan of the team which he / she coaches.

Part 4: 4.9.4 Disciplinary Action for Yellow and Red Card Bookings. The chart located here is what you will use most often

Cautions and Ejections Reference Guide

	Caution Code	Description
YELLOW CARD	UB	Unsporting behavior
	DT	Dissent by word or action
	PI	Persistent infringement
	DR	Delaying the restart of play
	FDR	Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
	E	Entering the field of play without the referee's permission
	L	Deliberately leaving the field of play without referee's permission
RED CARD	SFP	Serious foul play
	VC *	Violent conduct – *automatic 2 game suspension on first red card offense
	S *	Spitting at an opponent or any other person – *automatic 2 game suspension on first red card offense
	DGH	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball
	DGF	Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
	AL *	Using offensive, insulting and/or abusive language or gestures - *automatic 2 game suspension on first red card offense
	2CT	Receiving a second caution in the same match

What you need to keep in mind:

- There is a difference between receiving 2 yellow cards in the **same** game and accumulating 3 yellow cards in 3 **different** games.
 - When a participant (Player, Coach, Manager), receives 2 yellow cards in the same game, they are immediately ejected from the game. **Discipline = one (1) game suspension on the first red card offense.**
 - When a participant accumulates 3 yellow cards in three different games, they are not ejected from the game they are participating in when they receive their third yellow card. **Discipline = one (1) game suspension** with:
 - The Primary team the player is rostered to even if the third card was received while club passing with another team. The player may not Club Pass with ANY team until suspension is served.
 - The team the Coach/Manager was with when they received their third yellow card.
- Red Cards are **NOT all created equal:** Violent Conduct, Spitting, and Abusive Language **Discipline = two (2) game suspension on the first red card offense.**

These rule excerpts were copied from the STYSA Administrative Handbook. The full version can be found online at: www.stxsoccer.org