



SOUTHERN NEVADA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

TEAM STAFF/SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE PROTOCOL

REFEREE RESPONSIBILITY – The referee is the controlling authority of the game, and it is his or her primary responsibility to ensure the safety of all participants during SNSA games. Misconduct by team staff and/or spectators can pose a threat to participant safety and must be addressed by the referee according to the FIFA Laws of the Game and SNSA discipline protocol. Field administrators may be requested to observe or may contact law enforcement if deemed necessary, but the referee makes final decisions regarding disciplinary action, including abandonment of the game if necessary.

TEAM STAFF MISCONDUCT - FIFA Laws of the Game Law 12 outlines misconduct and corresponding sanctions for team staff (head coach, assistant coach, team manager):

Warning Offences

The following offences should result in a warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off:

- Entering the field of play without referee permission in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- Failing to cooperate with a match official (e.g. ignoring an instruction/request)
- Expressing minor/low-level disagreement (by work or action) with a decision
- Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence.

Caution Offences (Yellow Card)

Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

- Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- Delaying the restart of play by their team
- Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- Dissent by work or action including:
 - Throwing/kicking drinks, bottles or other objects
 - Gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official e.g., sarcastic clapping
- Excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- Gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- Persistent unacceptable behaviour (including persistent warning offences)
- Showing a lack of respect for the game.

Sending Off Offences (Red Card)

Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- Deliberately leaving the technical area to:
 - Show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
 - Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- Entering the field of play to:
 - Confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
 - Interfere with play, an opposing player or match official
- Physical or aggressive behavior (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team staff member, match official, spectator or another person
- Receive a second caution in the same match
- Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- Violent conduct.

Sending Off Procedures

When a team staff member (head coach, assistant coach or team manager) receives a red card or two yellow cards, the referee proceeds as follows:

- **stops the game and holds the ball**
- dismisses the offending team staff member from the field
- records the offence code and name of the dismissed team staff member in the game report section of the game card
- waits to restart the game until the team staff member is completely outside the park (out of sight & sound); **the game clock continues to run**
- ends the game if the team staff member refuses to leave the field within five minutes of the request to depart, or if the team staff member threatens or physically contacts the referee.

NOTE: Post-game misconduct is also subject to sanctions as outlined above.

SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT – The highest-ranking team staff member (head coach - assistant coach - team manager) is responsible for the conduct of the team and its spectators. If a spectator engages in misconduct as outlined above, referees are instructed as follows:

Warning or Caution

If the spectator engages in **Warning or Caution** misconduct as outlined in the team staff misconduct section, or otherwise violates the [SNSA Spectator Code of Conduct](#), the referee **stops the game** and asks the highest-ranking team staff member to advise the spectator to refrain from further misconduct to avoid dismissal.

Sending Off

If the spectator engages in **Sending Off** misconduct as outlined in the team staff misconduct section, or **CONTINUES** to engage in **Warning/Caution** misconduct, the referee proceeds as follows:

- **stops the game and holds the ball**
- issues a yellow card to the coach for not controlling the spectator
- dismisses the offending spectator from the field
- asks the highest-ranking team staff member to provide the name of the spectator and write it in the game report section of the game card. If the team staff member cannot or will not provide the name of the spectator or the name of the player with whom the spectator is associated, make a notation on the game report.
- waits to restart the game until the spectator is completely outside the park (out of sight & sound); **the game clock continues to run**
- ends the game if the spectator refuses to leave the field within five minutes of the request to depart, or if the spectator threatens or physically contacts the referee.

THREAT TO PARTICIPANT SAFETY – If any team staff member or spectator engages in conduct that presents a threat to the safety of any match participant (player, team staff, spectator or referee), the referee shall end the game immediately and advise team staff to have their teams leave the field. Call local law enforcement (911 emergency; 311 non-emergency) if necessary.

IT IS THE REFEREE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL THE GAME TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. To this end, the referee must address misconduct by team staff and spectators in a firm, polite and timely manner to prevent an escalation of tensions. SNSA will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse of our referees.