



Bay County Youth Soccer Association, Inc.

Disciplines & Sanctions

Table of Contents

- 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS 3
- 2. DISCIPLINE - GAME CONDUCT. 4
 - 2.2. Remainder of Game Suspension..... 4
 - 2.3. One Game Suspension 4
 - 2.4. Offensive, insulting or Abusive Language 4
 - 2.5. Violent Conduct 5
 - 2.6. Spitting..... 5
 - 2.7. Second Red Card/Send-off 5
 - 2.8. Third Yellow..... 5
 - 2.9. Game Officials 5
 - 2.9.1. Misconduct Towards a Referee 5
 - 2.9.2. What Constitutes Misconduct 5
 - 2.9.3. Referee Abuse..... 6
 - 2.9.4. Referee Assault 6
 - 2.9.5. Referee/Assistant Referee Misconduct 7
 - 2.10. Procedures for Reporting Referee Abuse and Assault..... 7
 - 2.10.4. Finding Of Referee Assault 7
 - 2.10.5. Finding Of Referee Abuse 8
 - 2.10.6. Non-Finding Of Referee Assault Or Abuse..... 8
 - 2.11. Abuse and/or Assault Upon Non-Game Officials 8
 - 2.11.4. Procedures for Reporting Abuse and Assault 8
 - 2.11.5. Finding Of Possible Assault..... 9
 - 2.11.6. Finding Of Possible Abuse 9
 - 2.11.7. Non-Finding Of Assault Or Abuse 9
- 3. ADMINISTRATIVE GAME CONDUCT 9
 - 3.1. Unregistered Player..... 9
 - 3.2. Uncompleted suspension 10
 - 3.3. Removal of Team from Field..... 10
 - 3.4. Injured Players 10
 - 3.5. Completing Game Suspensions 10

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. Discipline and sanctions may be imposed by BCYSA upon anyone for either misconduct during BCYSA activities (games, practices, etc.) or infraction of administrative rules.

1.2. Discipline during games refers to both players and non-players and shall include pre-game, game and post-game misconduct. Such disciplines may be imposed as a result of a referee caution, ejection/sendoff, referee post-game report, incident report, or BCYSA board member report.

1.3. Administrative disciplines and/or sanctions refer to infractions of BCYSA rules and guidelines.

1.4. Players are those youth registered to BCYSA, who may be assigned to a team and are involved in the pre-game, game, and post-game activities (on or off the field, in or out of uniform).

1.5. Non-players shall include coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators involved in the pre-game, game, or post-game activities (on or off the field).

1.6. Severity of discipline and/or sanctions shall be consistent with the severity of misconduct and/or infraction as defined in sections 2 and 3 of this document, the Code of Conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators and Coaches, and the BCYSA By-Laws.

1.7. Submission of charges of misconduct or Rules infraction against a BCYSA official shall be filed in compliance with procedures as defined in the BCYSA By-Laws.

1.8. In the event civil or criminal charges are brought against registered BCYSA player or non-player as a result of personal misconduct for which a disciplinary action has been taken against said player or non-player, sanctions and/or disciplines so imposed will remain in effect until resolution of the charges and evidence of such has been supplied to the disciplining body.

1.9. Charging BCYSA officials with alleged misconduct requires that the complaint be filed through the Secretary of BCYSA, in writing, within seven (7) days of identifying the offense. The Secretary shall immediately refer the charges to the President for investigation and hearing, or the Vice President if the misconduct concerns the President. The President shall hold a hearing within sixty (60) days of charges being filed and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors pursuant to BCYSA By-Laws.

1.10. Due process shall be guaranteed to any individual or group disciplined or sanctioned by BCYSA. Failure to provide due process shall result in the suspension of the discipline imposed. Upon determining due process has not been provided, BCYSA may or may not re-institute proceedings according to the Rules.

1.11. Individual rights to a hearing before the imposition of any discipline or sanction more severe than the minimums required, shall be guaranteed to any individuals involved in BCYSA and shall be conducted in a fair, timely and impartial manner.

1.12. Eligibility to participate remains terminated until any discipline, suspension, or sanction has been completed, or a decision has been rendered on an appeal. If a timely hearing is not provided, the person may participate after the minimum sanctions have been fulfilled.

1.13. Any Individual whose privilege to participated in BCYSA sanctioned events as a coach/volunteer is removed as a result of any background check shall not participate in any referee program sanctioned by BCYSA. This shall include but not be limited to acting as a referee, assignor, assessor or instructor at or during any BCYSA sanctioned event. Such restriction shall remain in effect until said coach/volunteer is reinstated by BCYSA.

2. DISCIPLINE - GAME CONDUCT.

2.1. When Discipline/Sanctions are imposed, they must meet the required minimums. The Discipline committee must evaluate the incident as to intent, severity and past misconduct to determine the appropriate disciplines/sanctions. In addition more severe disciplines/sanctions shall be imposed for multiple red cards during a season and for misconduct directed towards officials or administrators.

2.2. Remainder of Game Suspension

2.2.1. Resulting from a second caution; (i.e., persistent infringement or dissent by word or action), providing no other infractions are incurred by the player after he/she has been sent-off.

2.3. One Game Suspension

2.3.1. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area).

2.3.2. Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving toward the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.

2.3.3. Serious Foul Play is defined as using disproportionate and unnecessary strength in a manner likely to hurt or injure an opponent; any tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent.

2.4. Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language

2.4.1. One (1) game suspension - Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures not directed.

2.4.2. Three (3) game suspension - Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed toward a player, referee, assistant referee, administrator, spectator or game and/or tournament official.

2.4.3. 2.3.3. Six (6) game suspension - Adult directed to a youth referee

2.5. Violent Conduct

2.5.1. One (1) game suspension (minor infractions) - Dead-ball foul that is neither violent or with intent to harm or injure; attempting to strike, hit or punch.

2.5.2. Four (4) game suspension (major infractions) - Is defined as the aggression of a player towards an opponent with clearly no intent to play or fight for the ball; threatening gestures; fighting, hitting, or punching; all gestures with any part of the body which implies visual profanity; any exposure of the anatomy considered lewd and lascivious.

2.5.3. Six (6) game suspension (major infraction) - Entering a fight in progress or action resulting in law enforcement being called; Entering the field of play and committing any additional offense. (e.g. violent conduct, foul or abusive language—this will be in addition to the sanction for the subsequent violation.)

2.6. Spitting

2.6.1. 4 (four) game suspension - Is defined as spitting on or at an opponent or another person.

2.7. Second Red Card/Send-off

2.7.1. Any player or coach who receives a second red card/send-off during a seasonal year or a third within two seasonal years for either violent conduct (major infraction with a 4, or 6 game suspension), foul and/or abusive language directed, spitting, or referee abuse, will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year. The player/coach may then petition to the BCYSA president in writing for re-instatement. The President will rule on the petition. There is a processing fee of \$100.00 per petition. Multiple offenses relating to the same red card/ejection will qualify under this rule.

2.8. Third Yellow

2.8.1. Any player who receives a third yellow card during a seasonal year will be suspended for 1 game following the game in which the card was received. If the third yellow card is received during the last game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the next season the player participates in.

2.9. Game Officials

2.9.1. Misconduct Towards a Referee. Misconduct toward a referee may include, but it not limited to, all referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or other duly appointed to assist. It also includes any not licensed, or registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee and any club assistant referees.

2.9.2. What Constitutes Misconduct. Any act committed before, during, or after a match, even at later times, if it is match related, such as at work or at home may constitute misconduct toward game officials.

2.9.3. Referee Abuse.

2.9.3.1. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact, which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.

2.9.3.2. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee; using foul or abusive language toward a referee (must imply a threat of physical harm), spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; verbally threatening a referee with remarks that carry implied or direct threats of physical harm.

2.9.3.3. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece" shall be deemed referee abuse.

2.9.3.4. Discipline: Minimum sanctions

2.9.3.4.1. Six (6) games suspension except;

2.9.3.4.2. An adult upon a youth referee, the remainder of the current season plus one (1) season suspension.

2.9.4. Referee Assault.

2.9.4.1. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee committed before during, or after a match, even later times if it is match related such as at work or at home. "For the purpose of this rule, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant." Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property (i.e., car, equipment, etc.).

2.9.4.2. The individual committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

2.9.4.2.1. For a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least three (3) months from the time of the assault;

2.9.4.2.2. For an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least five (5) years.

2.9.4.2.3. For an assault when serious injuries are inflicted upon the referee; suspended for life and criminal charges will be filed by the league.

2.9.4.2.4. Except as provided in above, for any other assault, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault.

2.9.4.3. In addition to the suspensions listed above, legal action may also be taken against any individual committing assault on a referee in accordance with Florida Law (FL Statute 784.081)

2.9.5. Referee/Assistant Referee Misconduct.

2.9.5.1. Misconduct, charges or allegations shall be filed immediately in writing with the BCYSA Referee Administrator with copies addressed to the Referee Assignor and BCYSA President within forty-eight (48) hours of identifying the offense. The BCYSA Incident Report may be used for this purpose.

2.9.5.2. Hearings may be held by the BCYSA Referee Administrator or his/her designees.

2.10. Procedures for Reporting Referee Abuse and Assault

2.10.1. Procedures to be followed for any alleged incident of referee assault or abuse for any BCYSA sanctioned event.

2.10.2. The referee, or a member of the referee crew (should the referee be incapacitated), will report any incident of alleged referee assault/abuse to Bay County Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (BCYSA) within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident. The written report submitted must be postmarked (time stamped if submitted by email) within forty eight (48) hours of the incident (excluding legal holidays) and must include the official game report, supplemental referee report, any other information the referee wants to submit, and the name of the player/coach and player pass (if player is in U12 or older age division) or the name of the non-player under investigation (if known). BCYSA will in turn notify Soccer Association for Youth (SAY) that a potential assault/abuse incident is under review, within 48 hours of receipt of the report.

2.10.3. Upon receipt by BCYSA, a file will be opened to contain a copy of the initial report and the player/coach's pass, if applicable. The original report will then be immediately forwarded to BCYSA's Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee will make a determination within seven (7) days of receipt of the report as to one of the following: a) possible referee assault did occur; b) possible referee abuse did occur; or c) documentation provided did not warrant a determination of either assault or abuse.

2.10.4. Finding Of Referee Assault

2.10.4.1. In the event the Discipline Committee determines a possible referee assault case exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the BCYSA president. Upon verification by the President of an allegation of assault, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing is held on the assault. The President will immediately schedule and hold a hearing on the matter within thirty (30) days. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

2.10.4.2. At the completion of the hearing, the President will notify the accused in writing of the findings of the hearing panel. If the accused is found guilty of assault, notification

will include information as to the next level of appeal, as per Rule 2104 of USSF, which is directly to the Appeals Committee of the United States Soccer Federation.

2.10.5. Finding Of Referee Abuse

2.10.5.1. In the event the Discipline Committee determines a case of referee abuse exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the President who will, based on the report, immediately impose sanctions of not less than a three (3) game suspension. The President may impose greater sanctions for repeat offenders or if the situations warrants; however, sanctions of more than four (4) games will require that a hearing be held, unless waived by the accused. When sanctions are imposed, the President will, within seven (7) days, notify the accused in writing of said sanctions and the right of appeal of this decision to BCYSA. The player/coach pass will be forwarded to the BCYSA Registrar to hold until proper notification of games served is presented. When such notification is presented, the pass will be immediately returned to the player/coach.

2.10.6. Non-Finding Of Referee Assault Or Abuse

2.10.6.1. In the event that the Discipline Committee determines that neither referee assault nor abuse occurred, the Committee will notify the President of such. The President will immediately instruct the Registrar to return the player/coach's pass to the appropriate team. If sanctions are required as a result of actions not determined to be that of referee assault or abuse, BCYSA will handle these separately and according to association rules.

2.11. Abuse and/or Assault Upon Non-Game Officials

2.11.1. Abuse and/or assault upon league, tournament, or state officials or any other person acting in an official capacity at any BCYSA sanctioned event.

2.11.2. Abuse shall be defined as under section 2.9.3

2.11.3. Assault shall be defined as under section 2.9.4

2.11.4. Procedures for Reporting Abuse and Assault

2.11.4.1. These procedures are to be followed for any alleged incident of assault or abuse for any BCYSA sanctioned event.

2.11.4.2. The official, or event director, will report any incident of alleged assault/abuse to Bay County Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (BCYSA) within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident. The written report submitted must be postmarked with seventy-two (72) hours of the incident (excluding legal holidays) and must include the official game report, supplemental reports, any other information the parties want to submit, and the name of the player/coach and player pass (if player is in U12 or older age division) or the name of the non-player under investigation (if known).

2.11.4.3. Upon receipt by BCYSA, a file will be opened to contain a copy of the initial report and the player/coach's pass, if applicable. The original report will then be

immediately forwarded to BCYSA's Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee will make a determination within seven (7) days of receipt of the report as to one of the following: a) possible assault did occur; b) possible abuse did occur; or c) documentation provided did not warrant a determination of either assault or abuse.

2.11.5. Finding Of Possible Assault

2.11.5.1. In the event the Discipline Committee determines a possible assault case exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the BCYSA President. Upon verification by the President of an allegation of assault, the person is automatically suspended until a hearing is held on the assault. The President will immediately schedule and hold a hearing on the matter within thirty (30) days. Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

2.11.5.2. At the completion of the hearing, the President will notify the accused in writing of the findings of the hearing.

2.11.6. Finding Of Possible Abuse

2.11.6.1. In the event the Discipline Committee determines a case of official abuse exists, the Committee will forward its findings to the President who will, based on the report, immediately impose sanctions of not less than a three (3) game suspension. The President may impose greater sanctions for repeat offenders or if the situations warrants; however, sanctions of more than four (4) games will require that a hearing be held, unless waived by the accused. When sanctions are imposed, the President will, within seven (7) days, notify the accused in writing of said sanctions and the right of appeal of this decision to BCYSA. The player/coach pass will be forwarded to the BCYSA Registrar to hold until proper notification of games served is presented. When such notification is presented, the pass will be immediately returned to the player/coach.

2.11.7. Non-Finding Of Assault Or Abuse

2.11.7.1. In the event that the Discipline Committee determines that neither official assault nor abuse occurred, the Committee will notify the President of such. The President will immediately instruct the Registrar to return the player/coach's pass to the appropriate team. If sanctions are required as a result of actions not determined to be that of official assault or abuse, BCYSA will handle these separately and according association rules.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE GAME CONDUCT

3.1. Unregistered Player

3.1.1. A coach who sends onto the playing field, with the intent to participate in the game, any player who is not registered, is suspended, is over-age, or is not a rostered member of the teams playing, shall be suspended for the remainder of the season PLUS three (3) additional seasons.

3.1.2. A player, who knowingly enters a game, that is not registered/rostered to either of the teams shall be suspended for the remainder of the season PLUS one (1) additional season.

3.2. Uncompleted suspension

3.2.1. A player who participates in a game before completion of suspension shall have the original suspension renewed.

3.2.2. A coach, who knows a player is under suspension but allows that player to participate in a game, shall be suspended for the remainder of the season PLUS five (5) additional seasons.

3.3. Removal of Team from Field

3.3.1. A coach who removes his/her team from the field during play may be subject to discipline by BCYSA. Any coach who removes his/her team from the field of play must, within forty-eight (48) hours, file a written report with BCYSA as to justification for his/her actions. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against the coach. This does not apply to U4-U8 coaches mutually removing their teams due to inclement weather in accordance with BCYSA Modified Laws of the Game & Recreational Rules.

3.4. Injured Players

3.4.1. When an injured player is attended to on the field of play, the player must leave the field of play for treatment and evaluation. A substitution may be made for the injured player. If the team plays short, the injured player will not be allowed back onto the field of play without the permission of the referee. The injured player may re-enter the field from any point on the boundary lines if the ball is out of play; if the ball is in play the player may re-enter only from the touch line. The coach shall not enter the field of play without the approval of the referee. (Note: If by removing the player from the field will cause the number of player on the field to fall below the minimum required, the referee will allow a reasonable time for the injured player to be treated before allowing the match to continue.)

3.5. Completing Game Suspensions

3.5.1. Send-off suspensions for players or coaches (issuance of Red card to player / verbal sendoff for coach) can only be served during BCYSA sanctioned games and may carry over to next season the player/coach participates in if needed.