



POLICY 9

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

A. RULES OF CONDUCT

1. Rules of conduct and discipline shall as a minimum comply with all USSF procedures and policies.

2. The TS Board of Directors has the authority to formulate conduct and discipline that is stricter than that of USSF.

3. Every individual that participates in any manner in events under the jurisdiction of TS is subject to the policies and procedures of this policy. Such persons include the following:

a. Players, including all substitutes

b. Teams, including both traveling and non-traveling teams

c. Coaches, including assistant coaches and team managers

d. Spectators, including parents and other family members

e. Referees, including assistant referees, instructors, assignors and assessors

f. Hosts of tournaments or other events

g. Associations, including clubs or leagues

h. Association officials and TS officials

4. Any of these individuals or groups determined to have violated the letter or intent of the TS Constitution, Bylaws, Policies or Procedures shall be subject to disciplinary action by TS.

5. All suspensions specified in these Policies shall be considered automatic. No hearing or notification is required. Any person not serving their prescribed punishment for violation of these policies shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing and greater penalties may be imposed by that hearing panel.

6. A plea of ignorance of the rules, regulations, policies, requirements and procedures of the governing authority of an organization or competition, including TSSA, United States Youth

Soccer or U.S. Soccer, is not sufficient grounds for any action, a defense for any action, or an excuse for any action.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Suspension** shall be defined as no participation in the area(s) in which an individual is suspended.
2. **Suspension of a team** shall be defined as suspension from any competition for any team having seven or more players who were members of an offending team for the time period specified.
3. **Dissent** shall be defined as anything that demonstrates continuous disagreement with game officials either by action or word.
4. **Threats** shall be defined as remarks, verbal statements, gestures, or physical act not resulting in bodily contact that carry the implied threat of physical harm against another individual or their personal property.
5. **Referee abuse** shall be defined as the use of foul and abusive language toward a referee, spewing any beverage on the referee or their personal property, or verbally threatening a referee.
6. **Assault** is an intentional act of physical violence. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts upon another individual:
 - a. Hitting
 - b. Kicking
 - c. Punching
 - d. Choking
 - e. Spitting at or on
 - f. Grabbing
 - g. Poking
 - h. Deliberate bodily running into
 - i. The act of kicking or throwing an object at
 - j. Damaging personal property

7. Clarifications:

- a. A player sent off in a State League (D-1 & D-2) must sit out the next scheduled State League match.
- b. A player sent off in a Region 3 Premier League match must sit out the next scheduled Region 3 Premier League match. If the match is final Region 3 Premier League match, the player must sit out the first scheduled match of the State Cup Tournament.
- c. A player sent off in a tournament match must sit out the next scheduled tournament match.
- d. A player sent off in a State Cup Tournament match must sit out the next scheduled State Cup Tournament match. If the match is the final match for the players team, the red card will carry over to the first match of next years State Cup Tournament. If the red card occurs in the finals of the State Cup Tournament and the team advances to the Region 3 Championships, the player must sit out the first scheduled match of the Region 3 Championships.

C.1.TWELVE POINT SYSTEM FOR DIVISION 1-3 YOUTH PLAYERS

1. A twelve point system shall be in effect for all Division 1-3 youth players effective September 1, 2000.
2. Players shall be given one point for each yellow card received.
3. Players shall be given two points for each red card received.
4. If a player received two yellow cards that result in a red card in a match the player will receive two total points for that match.
5. Point totals accumulate for the seasonal year, September 1 to August 31 of the following year.
6. Point totals include all cards received from both indoor and outdoor participation.
7. Players that accumulate five points must sit out their next scheduled game.
8. Players that receive a red card must sit out the remainder of that game.
9. If a player receives a red card due of their second cautionable offense or due to a sending-off offense, as defined in the *Laws of the Game*,of the match the player shall sit out the next scheduled game. If in receiving the red card the player has accumulated five or more points, the player shall sit out their two next scheduled games (one game for receiving the red card and one game for accumulating five or more points).
10. If a player receives a red card due to a sending-off offense, as defined in the *Laws of the Game*, the player shall sit out the next scheduled game. If in receiving the red card the player has accumulated nine or more points, the player shall sit out three scheduled games, (one game for receiving the red card and two game for accumulating nine or more points).

11. A player that accumulates twelve points is suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year.

12. Players that are found guilty of assault shall receive a minimum of a one-year suspension from the date of the incident.

13. A coach that knowingly plays an ineligible player shall receive a minimum of a one-year suspension from the date of the incident or from the date it is determined that the coach is found guilty of violating this Policy.

C.2. 12-POINT SYSTEM FOR ADULT PLAYERS

1. A 12- point system shall be in effect for all adult players effective September 1, 2007.

2. Players shall be given one point for each yellow card received.

3. Players shall be given three points for each direct red card received (allowing four points in one game if a yellow is first received and later a direct red).

4. If a player received two yellow cards that result in a red card in a match the player will receive two total points for that match.

5. Point totals accumulate for the seasonal year, September 1 to August 31 of the following year.

6. Point totals include all cards received from both indoor and outdoor participation.

7. Players that accumulate five points must sit out one game.

8. Players that receive a red card must sit out the remainder of that game.

9. If a player receives a red card due of their second cautionable offense, as defined in the *Laws of the Game*, of the match the player shall sit out the next scheduled game. If in receiving the red card the player has accumulated five or more points, the player shall sit out two games (one game for receiving the red card and one game for accumulating five or more points).

10. If a player receives a red card due to a sending-off offense, as defined in the *Laws of the Game*, the player shall sit out the next scheduled game. If in receiving the red card the player has accumulated five or more points, the player shall sit out two games, (one game for receiving the red card and one game for accumulating five or more points).

11. A player that accumulates nine points must sit out two games.

12. If a player receives a red card due of their second cautionable offense, as defined in the *Laws of the Game*, of the match the player shall sit out the next scheduled game. If in receiving the red card the player has accumulated nine or more points, the player shall sit out three games (one game for receiving the red card and two games for accumulating nine or more points).

13. If a player receives a red card due to a sending-off offense, as defined in the *Laws of the Game*, the player shall sit out the next scheduled game. If in receiving the red card the player has accumulated nine or more points, the player shall sit out three games, (one game for receiving the red card and two games for accumulating nine or more points).

14. A player that accumulates twelve points is suspended for the remainder of the seasonal year

15. Players are prohibited from participating as guest players with other teams until suspensions are served.

D. RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING YELLOW AND RED CARDS

1. It is the responsibility of game officials to report all yellow and red cards to the appropriate officials in a timely manner using a standard referee report.

2. It is the responsibility of tournament officials to report all yellow and red cards in the tournament report. The tournament report shall be submitted no later than two weeks following the event.

3. TS is responsible for tracking the points of all players and notifying the players association president and coach.

4. It is the responsibility of the association president or their designee or the coach to counsel the player.

EVENT	REFEREE RESPONSIBILITY	REFEREE RESPONSIBILITY	TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITY	TS RESPONSIBILITY
	Game Report	Pulled Player Card		
Non-League Match(es)	Referee sends report directly to TS within 24 hours of the match.	Player Card returned to the team coach or manager.		Tracks the points of all players. Sends notification to the association president and the team coach.
League Play Match(es)	Referee sends report directly to TS within 24 hours of the match.	Player Card returned to the team coach or manager.		Tracks the points of all players. Sends notification to the association president and the team coach.
Invitational Tournaments	Referee provides report to the Tournament Director immediately following the match.	Player Card submitted to the Tournament Director.	Tournament Director sends game report to TS as part of the tournament report no later than 14 days following the event. Tournament Director returns the player card to	Tracks the points of all players. Sends notification to the association president and the team coach.

State Cups	Referee provides report to the Tournament Director immediately following the match.	Player Card submitted to the Tournament Director.	<p>the team coach prior to the next game in which the player is eligible, or at the conclusion of the teams participation in the tournament.</p> <p>Tournament Director sends to TS as part of the tournament report no later than 14 days following the event.</p> <p>Tournament Director returns the player card to the team coach prior to the next game in which the player is eligible, or at the conclusion of the teams participation in the tournament.</p>	Tracks the points of all players. Sends notification to the association president and the team coach.
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E. REFEREE REPORTS

Referee reports shall include:

1. Team names; youth or amateur age group; male, female or co-ed
2. State and local affiliation of each team
3. Name of each coach
4. Name of offender, including the number of a player
5. Location of game and time
6. Brief factual description of the incident with reasons for each caution or ejection

F. CLASSIFICATION AND MINIMUM PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

CLASS	DESCRIPTION OF MISCONDUCT	MINIMUM PENALTY IF SUBSTANTIATED
Class 1	Dissent Use of Foul and Abusive Language Insulting/Derogatory Remarks or Gestures	Per the deiscipline point system for players 1 game suspension for all others

Class 2	Threats Second Class I Offense	Per the discipline point system for players 30 day suspension for all others
Class 3	Referee Abuse Unethical Recruiting Third Class I Offense Second Class II Offense	Per the discipline point system for players 90 day suspension and one year probation for all others.
Class 4	Assault Third Class II Offense Fourth Class I Offense Second Class III Offense	Per the discipline point system for players One year suspension and two year probation for all others If an adult assault against a youth referee, three-year suspension.

G. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYER AND TEAM CONDUCT

1. The coach is ultimately responsible for the actions and personal conduct of all persons involved with the team, including team members, assistant coaches, team manager, parents, family members, and spectators.
2. The coach is responsible to ensure that actions of the team and all persons involved with the team both on and off the field do not bring discredit upon the team, its association, or TS.
3. Each team and all persons involved with the team are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner under all circumstances and to exhibit appropriate behavior before, during, and after a game, in and around lodgings, and on any other occasions when the group could be identified as a team.
4. Traveling teams are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled tournament events and ceremonies with no less than seven players.
5. Teams that intentionally fail to participate in any scheduled tournament event or ceremony shall be subject to disciplinary action by TS.
6. For teams whose general conduct is determined by a disciplinary review to be unsatisfactory, the following disciplinary actions may be applied according to the severity and frequency of incidents of misconduct.
 - a. Letter of reprimand to the coach and the team with copy to the local association
 - b. Team suspension for a period of time, with all games scheduled during that period of time forfeited
 - c. Team suspension from competition, i.e., TS state tournaments, etc.
 - d. Denial of permission to travel interstate either for a period of time or for specific competitions

- e. Dismissal of the team coach or manager
- f. Team disbandment
- g. Loss of bonds and/or travel subsidies
- h. Fines

H. COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

The Coaches Code of Ethics outlines responsibilities and obligations required of all registered division 1, 2, and 3 coaches. Coach registration includes a signed contract with TS to uphold this code.

Tennessee Soccer Coaches Code of Conduct and Ethics

1. I will conduct myself as a professional in all team training and match activities.
2. I will abide by and enforce TS policy and procedure and require the same of my team and representatives of my team, including spectators.
3. The development of the players athletic skills, values, and social skills shall be placed above winning.
4. I will display integrity and class at all times and require the same of my team and representatives of my team, including the teams spectators.
5. I will support the match referees in enforcement of the rules and will require the same of my team and representatives of the team, including the teams spectators.
6. I will respect the players right to choose the team on which to participate.
7. I will not engage in illegal/inappropriate recruitment of any players and will require the same of my team and team representatives.
8. I recognize that I represent the TS Director of Coaching on behalf of my team and team representatives in all TS and USSF sanctioned events.

I. UNETHICAL RECRUITING

1. It shall be deemed unethical behavior to contact a player directly or indirectly, encourage or otherwise entice a player to transfer from one team to another during that teams seasonal year without first contacting the current players coach.
2. It shall be deemed unethical behavior to invite a player to participate as a guest player without first contacting the current players coach.

3. Any interested party may request a hearing to seek resolution to disputes over perceived unethical recruiting violations.

J. MISCONDUCT OF COACHES

1. A coach that is ejected from a match for misconduct shall be suspended from all coaching activities for the minimum period of time as defined in TS Policy 9, Section F, for the given class of misconduct.

2. Suspension from coaching is defined as no participation as a coach or trainer for any USSF, USYS, or TS sanctioned team(s). This means that an individual coaching multiple teams is suspended from coaching/training activities with all teams for the specified time.

3. Upon review of the referee report, the TS Executive Committee or TS BOD had the authority to impose a greater penalty than the minimum penalty for coach misconduct.

4. A coach may request a formal hearing concerning issues relative to conduct and discipline. The procedure for requesting a hearing is contained in TS Policy 8.

5. The minimum penalty for the class of misconduct is enforced until reversed by a formal hearing panel or the suspension period has lapsed.

6. In addition to the minimum penalty, a coach may be subject to a more severe disciplinary penalty based on the recommendations of a formal hearing panel.

7. A coach that also participates in USSF, USYS, or TS activities, as a player shall have two points applied to their cumulative point total under the nine-point system for players.

8. A coach found guilty of unethical recruitment shall receive a minimum of a 90-day suspension from the date of the incident from all coaching activities.

9. A coach found guilty of knowingly playing an ineligible player shall receive a minimum of a one-year suspension from the date of the incident from all coaching activities.

10. The disciplinary actions of TS do not replace or preclude a coach from civil and/or criminal prosecution.

K. PROPERTY DAMAGE

1. A player or team responsible for accidental or willful damage to property shall be required to pay all lawful claims within 45 days of receiving said claim.

2. If claims are not paid within the prescribed time period, the player or team may be placed on travel restrictions until all claims are paid in full.

3.Reinstatement of travel privileges shall not be considered until all lawful claims are paid in full.

4.If the damage to property is determined to be other than accidental, the players and/or team are subject to disciplinary action for assault as defined in this policy.

L. HOSTS

1.Associations hosting tournaments or other events and found to have violated the letter or intent of TS policies are subject to disciplinary action by TS.

2.The following punishments may be applied according to the severity and frequency of incidents of misconduct:

a.Withdrawal of sanctioning or approval of the event

b.Loss of good standing for the association

c.Loss of the privilege of hosting a tournament or other event during the current seasonal year or following year(s)

d.Loss of the privilege of travel for its teams for the remainder of the current seasonal year

e.Fines

M. DOCUMENTS AND FUNDS

1.Individuals or groups found guilty of the following acts are subject to disciplinary action by TS:

a.Falsification of documents including but not limited to registration data, birth certificates, player passes, coaches registration/passes, rosters, insurance claims, tournament reports or proxies

b.Allowing unregistered players to participate in games or other events

c.Misappropriation or mishandling of TS, member association, or TS registered team funds

2. The disciplinary actions listed below shall be applied by TS according to the severity and frequency of the incidents:

a.Letter of reprimand to the offending party with copy to the local association

b.Suspension for a period of time

c.Suspension from specific competitions

d.Loss of the privilege to host a tournament or other event

e.Loss of the privilege of travel

f.Loss of bonds and/or travel subsidies

g.Fines

h.Loss of good standing for the association

i.Removal from office

N. MISCONDUCT OF GAME OFFICIALS

1.Game officials shall be defined as:

a.All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others appointed to assist in officiating the match

b.Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee under USSF Rule 3040

c.Any club assistant referee

d.Any referee development program person performing any official function at a match

2.When a game official is accused of having committed misconduct either at or away from a match, the jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter rests with the National State Association in which the referee is registered.

3.Misconduct may include the following:

a.Violation of the Code of Ethics for Referees as defined in USSF Policy 531-11, Subpart C

b.Abuse of authority

c.Conflict of interest

d.Failure to submit Referee Game Reports as indicated in Section D of this policy

4.Reports of misconduct shall be sent to the TS Executive Director.

5.The TS Executive Director shall send a copy of the complaint to the SRA for their records.

6.If a hearing is to be conducted it shall be conducted per the TS policy and procedure for hearings.

7. Individuals found guilty of misconduct may be penalized by the following:

a. Letter of Reprimand

b. Fine

c. Suspension for a defined period

d. Any combination of a, b, or c

e. Dismissal from USSF