



# Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League

Date: May 5, 2022

The objective of the Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League is to develop and promote a vital and exciting youth soccer program among its 21 member clubs. This is accomplished through organized competitive soccer play and programs designed to educate and develop players, coaches and referees.

On April 9, 2022, during the first week of Spring play, an on-field incident occurred where, according to the referee report, a player from one team punched the player of another team. It was further reported by the referee that the player was dismissed from the field of play for violent conduct, the player initially refused to leave, and the referee had to temporarily stop the match and urge the player to leave the team's bench.

Pursuant to the above referee report, out of concern for the safety of our clubs the player was suspended pending a meeting of the NVYSL Sportsmanship Committee (the "committee").

On May 3, 2022 the committee sat and heard further evidence from parents, coaches, character witnesses, and the clubs.

The committee was composed of 9 coaches, parents, and Board members from around the league, and was chaired by Christopher Batinsey, the league President. The committee deliberated for one-and-a-half (1.5) hours about the facts in the referee report and the further evidence from the committee meeting. The committee considered punishments for the player for the on-field offense, the coaching staff for failing to control the player and enforce NVYSL Policy 5.02.01 requiring the player to remain 200 yards away from the field for the remainder of the game and for 60 minutes after the game, and the club for failing to enforce the league's Code of Conduct.

The committee ultimately decided to (1) impose a four (4) game total suspension on the player<sup>1</sup>, (2) to warn the club that any further cards accumulated by the player will result in an immediate suspension from league play until the committee convenes to hear evidence of the new card and his prior suspension for the April 2022 violent conduct offense would be heavily considered when evaluating whether new action(s) are required, and (3) to require the club to email its parents and require them to review the league's Code of Conduct.

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<sup>1</sup> The four (4) game suspension includes the two (2) games the player has already been suspended pending the outcome of the committee. Therefore, the player will only be suspended for the upcoming two (2) matches.