

The background features a white central area with abstract green geometric shapes on the left and right sides. The shapes are composed of various shades of green, from light to dark, creating a layered, modern look.

# Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League

Spring 2026 Preseason Assignors Meeting

# Constitutional Mission

“NVYSL is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including, but not limited to, developing and promoting a vital and exciting youth soccer program for members of participating Clubs, regardless of race, gender, creed, color, nationality or disability.

This will be accomplished through programs of organized competitive soccer play and programs designed to educate and develop players, coaches and referees.”



# Topics

- ▶ Certification/Recertification
- ▶ Important Changes for Spring 2026
- ▶ Arbiter/Weekly Game Review
- ▶ Assigning in Arbiter
- ▶ Arbiter and Accepting Assignments
- ▶ Rosters
- ▶ Technical Area
- ▶ Credentials
- ▶ Coach/Spectator Behavior
- ▶ Referee Field Card
- ▶ Referee Game Reporting in Arbiter
- ▶ Referee Ranking
- ▶ NVYSL Rehydration Policy
- ▶ Grade 3&4 Throw-In Procedure
- ▶ What Happens if Referees Don't Report Score
- ▶ Language Incidents
- ▶ Changes to the Pre-Game Handshake
- ▶ US Soccer 531-9
- ▶ Miscellaneous
- ▶ Links



# Certification/Recertification

- ▶ Please check all of your referees certification status on the MSRC website OR there is now a feature in Arbiter that is apparently working that provides icons for referee certification status. If you find they are not certified via the icons, please check [www.massref.net](http://www.massref.net) to confirm. This much be checked every season. Set uncertified refs to “Not Active” in Arbiter
- ▶ Referees can not referee games for NVYSL if they are not certified
- ▶ Any issues with MSRC or USSF that you/they would like help resolving please have them contact [refdirector@nvysl.org](mailto:refdirector@nvysl.org)
- ▶ Please make sure your assignor certification is current



# Special Items of Note - Spring 2026

## NEW Goalkeeper 8-Second LOTG Update

- ▶ Rule Change - Goalkeepers now have 8 seconds maximum to release the ball after gaining control with their hands/arms (increased from previous 6-second limit)
- ▶ Effective starting Spring 2026

## When Does Control Start?

- ▶ The 8-second count begins when the referee determines the goalkeeper has clear control of the ball
- ▶ Control includes: holding the ball between hands, bouncing it on the ground, throwing it in the air, or trapping it against any surface
- ▶ The goalkeeper does NOT need to be standing up for the countdown to start

## Visual Countdown

- ▶ The referee will visually signal the last 5-seconds with a raised hand to help the goalkeeper
- ▶ The first 3-seconds are silent/invisible to players, coaches and spectators

## Penalty for Violation

- ▶ If the goalkeeper holds the ball longer than 8-seconds, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team (NOT an indirect free kick like before)

## Disciplinary Actions

- ▶ First Offense: No yellow card, just the corner kick awarded
- ▶ Repeated Violations: Goalkeeper may receive a caution (yellow card) for persistent time-wasting



# Arbiter

- ▶ Remind referees to verify their address and contact information (email and phone number too) is all correct
- ▶ In spring, town assignors assign all grade 3-8 games, AND only rescheduled grade 9+ games, the league Referee Assignor will schedule high school games initially, with the town assignor only needing to re-assign if rescheduled.
  - ▶ Original referee crew has first right of refusal
- ▶ Set up filters to check for ArbiterPay compliance if they have been assigned to grade 5+ games (people filter)



# Weekly Game Review in Arbiter

- ▶ Verify scores are reported
- ▶ Verify referees who worked the game are correct
- ▶ If a referee didn't accept the game and/or was a no show, unassign them
- ▶ Verify "Paid By BillTo" is NOT checked for ALL referees
- ▶ Verify there is a \$ amount and it is correct, in the "Fee" field. Note - For solo 5/6 + games delete the AR1 & AR2 slots and the fee will automatically change to 150% of the normal fee
- ▶ IF there is a new game to be created, it must be done immediately. There is a guide to creating a new game in the "Arbiter - Game Status Explained" document on the Arbiter/Resources/Forms
- ▶ Click "Resolved/Approved" if the referee report is all correct. Do not use "Verify"
- ▶ Only referees who are going to be paid should show assigned
- ▶ Referees must use ArbiterSports app, NOT Arbiter Mobile app
- ▶ MUST be done by Tuesday night each week PLEASE!



# Assigning in Arbiter

- ▶ Ensure referee's ranking is set appropriately for their skill level
- ▶ Try to assign referees to games that are appropriate for their skill level. If you need to assign an inexperienced referee to a game that has 3 referees, try to make sure there is a more experienced referee on the crew, and that they are aware of the situation. If a referee didn't accept the game, and/or was a no show, unassign them.
- ▶ Referee declines. When declining an assignment that a referee showed available for, the referee needs to provide a reasonable explanation for the decline.
- ▶ When the season or mid-season schedule is released for grade 3-8 games, the Club Referee Assignors are asked not to assign other club's referees without a discussion with that club's assignor for a period of at least 48 hours after the release of the schedule. This time may be adjusted by the NVYSL Referee Director based on when schedules are released, and whether there are other mitigating circumstances



# Arbiter and Accepting Assignments

- ▶ Ask referees to check emails daily for assignments
- ▶ Ask referees to accept assignments as soon as possible, within 48 hours
- ▶ If the referee shows available, they are expected to referee the game!  
Exceptional circumstances excused
- ▶ Keep in mind that there may be mid-week games due to some TBA and makeup games, so remind referees to set their blocks accordingly
- ▶ Note - If a referee is notified that their game is not being played on hour or more before kickoff time, via either a phone call, text, email, or a posting of the field/town fields being closed on the Field Status spreadsheet on [www.nvysl.org](http://www.nvysl.org), they will not be paid for the match. If a referee is given less than one hour notice the referee(s) will be paid



# NVYSL Field Status on Homepage

[www.nvysl.org](http://www.nvysl.org)

## Field Status

2026 Spring NVYSL Field Status : Field Closures

Club	4/11	4/12	Time of Update	If Some Open/Closed - Note any
Ayer-Shirley	Open	Open		
Berlin	Open	Open		
Bolton	Open	Open		
Boylston	Open	Open		
Chair City	Open	Open		
Clinton	Open	Open		
Fitchburg	Open	Open		
Groton-Dunstable	Open	Open		
Harvard	Open	Open		
Hudson	Open	Open		
Leominster	Open	Open		
Littleton	Open	Open		
Lunenburg	Open	Open		
Maynard	Open	Open		
Nashoba United	Open	Open		
North Quabbin	Open	Open		
Oakmont	Open	Open		
Pepperell	Open	Open		
Progin Park	Open	Open		

Published by [Google Sheets](#) – [Report Abuse](#) – Updated automatically every 5 minutes



# NVYSL Player Equipment Policy

- ▶ Each player shall wear fully covered shin guards or they will not be allowed to play
- ▶ Keepers are allowed to wear keeper gloves with finger savers
- ▶ Splints with soft, non-rigid, external flexible structure or covered non-rigid internal structural items (similar to finger savers on keeper gloves) are allowed. They may not have any loose straps (TAPE!)
- ▶ Players with plaster or fiberglass casts or hard splints, even if padded, cannot play - even with the permission of a parent or medical personnel. Players with orthopedic braces that have exposed or uncapped metal parts are also not allowed to play
- ▶ IFAB mandates “All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, studs, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.” Wrist bands must be removed if possible and may be required to be taped at the referee’s discretion
- ▶ Players with medical, religious, or cultural wearable items must have the item properly secured and protected (such as by taping down, covering, wrapping, or secured through other methods.) Medical information displayed on an item must remain observable



# Rosters

- ▶ Coaches and players names **MUST** be on the roster to play/be on the team sideline
- ▶ Note: There is only one exception to a coach not being on the roster. If no adult coach is available, another credentialed adult may coach. They must have their physical credentials with them and must wear them! This exception, if used, must be noted in the Arbiter game report.
- ▶ Only 3 coaches can be on the sideline per team
- ▶ Nothing handwritten may be on the approved roster, except uniform numbers
- ▶ NO electronic rosters. NO exceptions. Coaches may not offer a picture of the roster to the referee, nor may they offer to text or email the roster to the referee. Paper rosters are required.
- ▶ Pictures are required on the rosters for all D1 grade 5&6 and above divisions in the spring season.



# Rosters - Substitute Rosters



**NVYSL Roster**  
AFFILIATED WITH FIFA - USSF - USYSA



Approved 09/01/25

Hudson G78 Crimson

Division: 2.1

COACH



**Shaun Chambers**  
shaun@hysa.org  
617-999-0683  
Hudson

ASST



ASST.2



Cameron B



Sofia C



Caitlyn C



Megan C



Morgan D



Halle F



Lexie G



Ella G



Ava H



Beatrix J



Hannah M



Josephine M



Reilly O



Heer P



Zoe P



Cianna S



Peyton W



Deilah W

**PLAYERS**

JERSEY	LAST	FIRST	GRADE	YOB
5		Cameron	8	
48		Sofia	7	
45		Caitlyn	6	
14		Megan	7	
9		Morgan	8	
13		Halle	8	
6		Lexie	7	
2		Ella	8	
30		Ava	7	
26		Beatrix	7	
29		Hannah	7	
21		Josephine	7	
42		Reilly	7	
35		Heer	7	
7		Zoe	8	
32		Cianna	7	
1		Peyton	7	
22		Deilah	6	

The above coaches have agreed to follow the Coach Code of Conduct and know the penalties for non-compliance. All players and coaches meet NVYSL eligibility requirements and are properly affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer.

*Naether Parkum*  
CLUB REGISTRAR SIGNATURE

I have reviewed this roster, including any applicable waivers, for compliance with NVYSL requirements.

*Rosany M. Loureiro*  
LEAGUE OFFICIAL SIGNATURE

# Rosters - Substitute Rosters

- ▶ If no roster is available, the coach may provide a substitute roster
- ▶ The substitute roster may be handwritten or an older roster with handwritten updates, and must be marked clearly “SUBSTITUTE ROSTER”
- ▶ Use of substitute rosters **MUST** be noted in the Arbiter game report!
- ▶ A picture of the substitute roster must be emailed to [refdirector@nvysl.org](mailto:refdirector@nvysl.org) within 48 hours of the game
- ▶ Substitute rosters must contain the following:
  - ▶ Club name
  - ▶ Team name
  - ▶ Grade
  - ▶ Gender
  - ▶ ALL coach and player names AND player jersey numbers
  - ▶ Any injured players on the sideline must be listed even if they are not playing



# NVYSL Weather Policy

- ▶ If a severe storm approaches the playing area the game may be suspended while shelter is sought
- ▶ In the event the game is suspended, ALL participants **MUST** clear the field immediately and move into their cars or other permanent shelter
- ▶ If there is visible lightning or audible thunder, the game **MUST** be suspended and all participants are expected to seek shelter
- ▶ Games cannot be resumed until 30 minutes passes without further visible lightning or audible thunder
- ▶ In the event of a National Weather Service warning (i.e. tornado warning) games must be suspended immediately and everyone must seek shelter
- ▶ Any on-field weather related decisions are at the sole discretion of the referee. Coaches should not provide input to the referee's weather decision. If they are, politely let them know you're all set
- ▶ If 15 minutes or more pass during the delay and there is further lightning or thunder, consider abandoning the match, there are typically future matches



# Technical Area

- ▶ Coaches and players must be a minimum of 8 yards from the half line, except for player(s) waiting to be substituted
- ▶ Coaches and players must be a minimum of 2 yards from the touchline
- ▶ Suggest referees/coaches use cones to delineate substitution area and technical area
- ▶ Referees should issue cards for coaches that enter the field of play without referee permission per Law 12



# Credentials

- ▶ During games, coaches **MUST** physically have their credentials, and **MUST** wear them
- ▶ If a coach does not have their credentials physically with them, they are considered spectators, and must go to the spectator's side of the field. A license or picture on their phone is **NOT** a substitute for physically having credentials
- ▶ Exception to wearing credentials is if the lanyard is broken, but they physically have their credential
- ▶ Any credential issues must be reported in the Arbiter game report



# Credentials

**2025-2026**

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association

**Shaun  
Chambers**



# Coach, Spectator Behavior & Handling Injured Players

- ▶ If any coach, spectator or player show gross misbehavior please let the NVYSL Referee Director know ASAP, record the situation in the Arbiter game report
- ▶ Expectations for injured player. If play is stopped for an injured player, the injured player must leave the field and can be substituted. See Law 5 section on injured players
- ▶ The injured player can not come back on the field until the next stoppage of play if the player was substituted
- ▶ Grade 3&4 D2-D5 recommend stopping play anytime a player is down
- ▶ Coaches are NOT to enter the field of play unless given permission by the referee. Card coaches that violate this per Law 12



# Referee Field Card and Gametime Rosters

- ▶ Home coach is to provide and fill in the Referee Field Card including
  - ▶ Game ID
  - ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Grade
  - ▶ Division
  - ▶ Date/Time
  - ▶ Field
  - ▶ Team Names
  - ▶ Colors
  - ▶ Coach Name
- ▶ If it is not filled out, including Game ID, referee should hand back to coach to complete
- ▶ Referees should indicate on all rosters for every coach and player on the roster, that they are present for the match, including if they are present but not playing due to an injury
- ▶ If a match is suspended before completion due to inclement or dangerous weather, that match shall be rescheduled as a make-up match and replayed in it's entirety unless at least half the match was played and BOTH teams coaches agree BEFORE they and the referee leaves the field, to accept the result of the partially played match as final, and this decision must be reported to the referee and noted in the Arbiter game report



# Referee Field Card and Gametime Rosters



## NVYSL Referee Field Card

v2025

<b>GameID :</b>	<b>Gender :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Girls <input type="checkbox"/> Boys	<b>Home Coach:</b>	<b>Adult Cred?</b>
<b>Grade :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 3/4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5/6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7/8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9/10 <input type="checkbox"/> 9/PG	<b>Sign :</b>	<b>Visitor Coach:</b>	<b>Adult Cred?</b>
<b>Division :</b> <input type="checkbox"/> D1 <input type="checkbox"/> D2 <input type="checkbox"/> D3 <input type="checkbox"/> D4 <input type="checkbox"/> D5	<b>Sign :</b>		
<b>Date/Time:</b>			
<b>Field :</b>			

HOME Team Name	Color	# Players
1st Half Scoring		
2nd Half Scoring		
<b>Player Pass?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>HOME SCORE FINAL :</b>	

VISITOR Team Name	Color	# Players
1st Half Scoring		
2nd Half Scoring		
<b>Player Pass?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>VISITOR SCORE FINAL :</b>	

Y/R	Team	#	Player/Coach Name	Time	Code

<b>YELLOW : Caution</b>	<b>DR</b>	delays restart of play	<b>RED : Send-Off</b>	<b>DGH</b>	DOGSO by deliberately handling ball
	<b>DT</b>	shows dissent by word or action		<b>DGF</b>	DOGSO by a free kick offense
	<b>E</b>	enter/re-enter field without permission		<b>SFP</b>	serious foul play
	<b>L</b>	leaves field without permission		<b>S</b>	bites/spits at opponent/other person
	<b>FRD</b>	fails to respect required distance		<b>VC</b>	violent conduct
	<b>PO</b>	persistent offenses		<b>AL</b>	offensive/abusive language/gesture
<b>UB</b>	unsporting behavior	<b>2CT</b>	receives 2nd caution in same match		

Grade	Format	Ball	Duration	Heading	Minimum # Players	Gr34/Gr56 Special Rules
3/4	7v7	#4	2x 30'	NO	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NO Heading : IDFK restart</li> <li>• 8 yard rule on all kicks</li> <li>• Gr34 Goal Kicks: Defending players retreat to halfway line until kicked</li> <li>• Offside in Gr34 Div1 ONLY</li> <li>• Gr34 Throw-Ins: 1 retry allowed</li> </ul>
5/6	9v9	#4	2x 30'	NO	7	
7/8	11v11	#5	2x 35'	YES	7	
9/PG	11v11	#5	2x 40'	YES	7	

- Referee MUST verify all adult coaches on sidelines have current physical credentials.**
  - If an adult coach does not have physical credentials, they cannot be on the player's side
- File your Game Report in Arbiter within 48 hours of the match, including:**
  - Report Final Score
  - In comments list use of the NVYSL PlayerPass, any special circumstances (e.g., cards issued, field conditions, conduct violations, injuries, referee absences, etc.). All cards **must** include team, jersey number and name.
- Immediately report issued cards to your Assignor and League Referee Director that day.**
- Retain this field card and paper rosters until 2 weeks past end of season.**
- Conduct violations may be verbal (insults, harassing, threats, discriminatory) or physical towards referees.**

# Referee Game Reporting in Arbiter

Center Referee MUST report:

- ▶ Score
- ▶ Referee should NOT change either of the “status” drop down items. That is for the assignor only to change
- ▶ Comments - Include any issues with credentials, coach, player, parent behavior. Also include if Player Pass was used, include the team and player names for all players that used Player Pass
- ▶ ALL card reporting must be done in first in the report and must include YC or RC, card code, half, time, team, jersey number, player/coach name
- ▶ Report if ANY team, coach, players do not participate in the pre-game handshake procedure as well as any issues with the procedure
- ▶ Game report MUST be done within 48 hours of the match
- ▶ Referee must notify [refdirector@nvysl.org](mailto:refdirector@nvysl.org) and the town assignor with ANY behavioral issues or red cards the same day of the occurrence
- ▶ VERY IMPORTANT! - Any reporting of derogatory actions or discriminatory language MUST include the exact language that was heard. Any time there is an incident, reporting must be accurate and complete!



# Referee Game Reporting in Arbiter

ARBITER
Austin Franklin (Assigner)  
NVYSL (102949)

DASHBOARD
SCHEDULE
PAYROLL
ELIGIBILITY
PEOPLE
RESOURCES
REPORTS
SETTINGS

Games
Events
Archived Games

**Game Report (Game: 8148)**

Game	Date	Time	Sport	Level	Site	Status	Notes	Bill Amount	Verify
8148	6/6/2025 Sun	1:00 PM	Soccer	910 D1	Maynard Fowler	Normal		0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Team	Score
Maynard B910 B	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Hudson B910 Crimson	<input type="text" value="1"/>

**Submitted On:** 6/6/2025 Sun 10:27 PM  
**Submitted By:** Austin Franklin

Position	Official	Status	Locked	Paid By Bill To	Game Fee	Pay Travel	Travel	Perdiem	A/D	Verify	Assign	Unassign
Referee	Austin Franklin	On Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.00	0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Unassign"/>
AR 1	Alessandra Burnett	On Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.00	0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Unassign"/>
AR 2	Gregory Kostorek	On Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.00	0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Unassign"/>

**Comments**

YC PO Hudson #13 John [Fugleyan](#) 1H 0 minutes

YC DT Hudson #97 Oscar Mayer 2H 17 minutes

2nd YC RC DT Hudson #97 Greg [Hosengardner](#) 2H 17 minutes

[PlayerPass](#) Hudson B78 Crimson [Milard Hefsalump](#) & [Dudley DoWrons](#)

**Status**

Resolved / Approved

**Printing**

Adobe Acrobat Format (.pdf)



# Referee Rankings in Arbiter

- 100 May work any level game, includes all Regional referees regardless of age
- 200 May be assigned any level game, but preference should be given to a 100
- 250 A “200” who is between the ages of 16-19, can work any HS game
- 300 Capable of working center for a Grade 7/8 D1-2 game, AR for HS
- 350 Capable of working center for a Grade 5/6 D1-2 game and Grade 7/8 D3-5, AR for HS
- 400 Referee with over one year experience at 500, AR for Grade 7/8 D1-2
- 450 A “400” who is under the age of 16, AR for Grade 7/8 D1-2
- 500 AR for Grade 7/8 D3-5
- 600 Ready to center Grade 5/6 D3-5 games in and out of town
- 650 Ready to center Grade 5/6 D3-5 games IN TOWN ONLY
- 800 Experienced referees who are willing to travel, Grade 3/4 & AR Grade 5/6 D3-5
- 900 All new youth referees, Grade 3/4 & AR Grade 5/6 D3-5



# NVYSL Rehydration Break Policy

- ▶ The referee must stop play to allow players to rehydrate under the following conditions:
  - ▶ Following MYSA policies on stoppage for rehydration, in conditions of high heat and humidity when the heat index is 80 F or above
  - ▶ If either team has 1 or fewer substitutes and a hydration break is requested by the coach prior to the start of the match
- ▶ Rehydration breaks are initiated by the referee and occur during match running time
- ▶ A rehydration break will occur for no longer than 2 minutes per half during a stoppage in play
- ▶ Referees will execute a hydration break near the middle of the half
- ▶ **A rehydration break may also be initiated by the referee at their discretion**



# Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

Mass Youth Soccer has zero-tolerance for discrimination of any kind. The guidelines protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the following protected statuses: race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, veteran status.

Examples of derogatory language include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Sexually explicit statements, sexual flirtations, advances, propositions, subtle pressure for sexual activity, comments, questions, jokes or anecdotes
- ▶ Jokes, which include reference to race, religion, national origin, or gender identity
- ▶ The displays or uses of objects or pictures which adversely reflect on a person's race, religion, national origin or gender identity
- ▶ Use of pejorative or demeaning language regarding a person's race, religion, national origin or gender identity



# Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

If a player or coach reports being subject to derogatory language or disciplinary actions, which is heard or seen by the referee crew, the incident will be addressed according to the IFAB Laws of the Game.

If a member of the referee team did not hear or witness directly, the Center Referee will implement the following steps:

- ▶ Stop the game, if necessary
- ▶ Send both teams to the respective technical areas
- ▶ Gather the referee team
- ▶ Bring both coaches together
- ▶ Explain the situation to the best of your ability and understanding
- ▶ Direct the coaches to resolve the issue immediately. If the coaches are uncooperative, or a resolution cannot be initiated or reached in a reasonable amount of time (not to exceed 5 minutes) the referee will abandon the game immediately



# Pre-Game Handshake

## Procedure

- ▶ After players are checked in, 5 minutes prior to kickoff, both teams and the referee crew line up at the half line on the player side of the field
- ▶ Led by officials, all players and coaches will walk across the field and stop approximately 15 yards from the spectators
- ▶ Following a reading of the script, players will form a pre-game handshake line (home team to walk down away team line). After the handshake, all players and coaches will return to the benches with the starting players taking the field
- ▶ There is to be no post-game handshake
- ▶ Script: All participants deserve the right to play in an environment free from hostile and distracting behavior. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated, the game may be stopped and sanctions applied for violations of policy or codes of conduct. Please enjoy the game and do your part to create a positive soccer experience for all.



# What Happens if Referees Don't Report Scores

- ▶ NVYSL has a policy requiring Center Referees to report into Arbiter their game's scores and any other game report information within 48 hours after the match
- ▶ This fee is ONLY imposed on the Center Referee, but, ARs will not be paid until the Center Referee submits the report, so ARs may be delayed in getting paid. If the unreported game does not get remedied within two weeks, the ARs will be paid in the next pay cycle
- ▶ The fee will be \$3 if the score is not reported by 6:00 PM two days following the game, and \$1/day thereafter



# US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

## General

Misconduct against Referees may occur before, during, and/or after the match, specifically when the Referee arrives at and/or departs the venue. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a match affiliated with US Soccer or its Organizational Members.

For the purposes of this policy, a Referee is protected by US Soccer policy from the time they arrive at the venue (which shall include the parking area), until their departure from the venue. For the purposes of this policy, “Protected Party” means a member of the Referee’s family or household, or a guest of the Referee at the match or match venue. All US Soccer policies are in addition to the local, state and Federal laws.



# US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

Actions that do not meet assault or abuse definitions, but cause a Referee or Protected Party harm, may be subject to US Soccer's gross mistreatment framework. Gross mistreatment means any deliberate, non contact behavior that is expected to cause harm to a Referee. Gross mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:

- ▶ (A) Severe or repeated harassment, including hate speech or discriminatory remarks based on race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other legally protected characteristic.
- ▶ (B) Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
- ▶ (C) Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression (e.g. intimidation).
- ▶ (D) Any form of cyberbullying, including spreading false information about the Referee, sharing the Referee's personal information (aka doxing), or publicly posting content that ridicules or mocks the Referee or uses hate speech.
- ▶ (E) Questioning the Referee's character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.
- ▶ (F) Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.
- ▶ (G) Pervasive action that belittles or undermines the Referee's authority or intended to cast doubt on the Referee.



# US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

## Jurisdiction and Hearings

- (A) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults, abuses, or grossly mistreats a Referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible Member Organization which is affiliated with the Federation.
- (B) When an allegation of assault or abuse is verified by the Member Organization the accused person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault or abuse
- (C) The Member Organization must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification by the Member of the gross mistreatment, assault, or abuse or, if applicable.. If the member does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the Federation's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.
- (D) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind an automatic suspension for assault or abuse.



# US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention



## PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

### NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

### PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(\* Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

### KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **"minor multiplier" resulting in triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.



# General League/Miscellaneous Info

- ▶ Only one copy of each team's roster (including Player Pass rosters) is needed, referee keeps them with Referee Field Card for two weeks past the end of the season
- ▶ Please wear proper referee attire, such as long black socks and long black shorts. You may wear rain gear if needed
- ▶ NO heading for grade 3&4 and grade 5&6. Restart is IFK
- ▶ Offside is called for grade 3&4 D1 and above
- ▶ If you feel that you have been assigned a game that may be more difficult than you are comfortable with, contact your assignor
- ▶ If you are 18 or older, print out your credentials from the massref website (Print ID Card) and have it with you at the field
- ▶ Scores MUST be reported no later than 48 hours after the game or that game will not be paid in that pay cycle until the score is reported
- ▶ NVYSL only pays via ArbiterPay
- ▶ You must sign up for ArbiterPay in order to be paid for grade 5&6 games and above
- ▶ Towns pay all grade 3&4 games, contact your town assignor for information on payment for grade 3&4 games
- ▶ ArbiterPay pay sheets will be run every two weeks on Thursday following each second week of games

