



Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association Policies

Policy #14 - DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

Last Updated: January 2016

- I. **OBJECTIVE:** In order to assure both fair play and promote the competitive challenge offered by youth soccer as a team sport, it is essential that all players, coaches, game officials and spectators cooperate in the creation of a game spirit. To this end, and consistent with the existing policies of the USYSA, USSF, and the AYSA, Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association has adopted the following policies and protest procedures, which will be in force in all games and tournaments conducted under its supervision.
- II. **POLICY**
 - a. **Protest and Appeals Procedure:**
 - i. Only violations of the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules and Procedures of this Association, or misapplication of the "Laws of the Game" shall be subjects to be considered for protest and appeals. A "judgment call" of a referee cannot be appealed.
 - ii. The following shall be the line of authority for protest and appeals. Until this authority has been completed and/or adverse decisions rendered on the matter in question, may an individual proceed to the higher line of authority. Under no circumstances may legal counsel or use of the courts be used until this line of authority has been completed:
 1. FYSA Board of Directors (\$250.00 for appeal actions - money order/cashier's check)
 2. AYSA Board of Directors (fees as required)
 3. USSF (fees as required)
 - iii. Should any hearing body choose not to hear a protest, that body may, if they desire, refer the matter directly to the next higher authority.
 - iv. Upon receipt of any adverse decision, appeal may be made to the next higher authority.
 - v. **Definitions:**
 1. **PROTESTS**
 - a. Are usually related to a specific game or administrative action, and are filed by one of the involved team officials. Only those teams involved are permitted to protest a game result. Third parties such as coaches from another team or league/state administrators cannot file protests, on a specific game.
 - b. Protests submitted to a competition authority (league, tournament, etc.) must be filed in accordance with the protest procedure and rules of that competition. The protest must be based upon violation of the published rules of the competition, FYSA Bylaws, FYSA Policies or FIFA Laws of the Game.
 - c. The rights of protest and appeal within the rules of the competition must be exhausted before proceeding to the next level of authority defined herein.
 2. **APPEALS**
 - a. Arise as the results of an adverse decision from a protest action, administrative action, disciplinary action, or lower-level



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appeal. Only those parties to the original action, who are adversely impacted by such decisions, shall be allowed to appeal.

- b. An appeal shall not have the effect of "staying" a previous ruling. Previous decisions remain in force, pending the result of the appeal.

3. DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

- a. Result from allegations of misconduct. Such misconduct must be a violation of a published rule, regulation, or procedure or ethics.
- b. The Discipline Committee shall only hear allegations of misconduct which are lodged against individuals or entities within the jurisdiction of the convening authority
- c. Only the elected and/or appointed officials of duly constituted clubs, leagues, tournament committees, or FYSA administration may bring charges of misconduct. Referees are recognized as officials of such organizations in matters regarding game misconduct.

4. GENERAL GRIEVANCES

- a. A "grievance" is a complaint of a general nature, which is not based upon specific rule violations or upon a specific administrative decision (or lack of decision). General grievances are not handled through protest, appeal or disciplinary processes. Grievances of misconduct of Risk Management shall be handled through the discipline process.
- b. Grievances may be heard on an informal basis by the appropriate competition authority, the Member Organization, and/or the FYSA Board of Directors.

vi. Filing Procedure:

1. Protests or disciplinary allegations are to be submitted, typed or printed, post marked or delivered to the chairperson of the Discipline Committee or the FYSA office within five (5) calendar days (Sundays and holidays excluded) following the date of the allegations of misconduct.
2. A Protest, appeal or allegation of misconduct must be filed in writing, and shall include:
 - a. The nature and specifics of the complaint.
 - b. A listing of the rules or procedures, which have been violated, including rule number.
 - c. Proper filing fee, if applicable.
3. In the case of an appeal, the appeal must be placed in the Registered or Certified US Mail or hand delivered to the FYSA office within three days of the receipt by the appellant of the prior adverse ruling



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(Sundays and holidays excluded, unless the rules of the competition state otherwise)

4. Upon receiving the appeal, the FYSA office shall immediately submit all retained evidence and documentation to the FYSA Board of Directors.
5. For an appeal to the FYSA Board of Directors, the filing fee shall be \$250.00 by means of a money order or cashier's check. The appeal fee shall be returned if the appeal is upheld. This fee shall be retained if the appeal is denied, unless the ruling is overruled by a higher authority
6. For an allegation of misconduct, the Discipline Committee shall consider all pertinent information arising out of the allegation. The Discipline Committee has the right to hold a hearing and make the appropriate action or dismiss the allegation. The Discipline Committee will convey in writing to all parties within five (5) calendar days (Sundays and holidays excluded) of its decision.
7. If the Discipline Committee elects to hold a hearing, notification of the hearing shall be accomplished by one of following methods:
 - a. Telephone, with written follow-up sent by US Mail
 - b. Certified US Mail, return receipt requested.
8. Notification should contain the following:
 - a. A condensed restatement of the cause of action.
 - b. The date, time and place of the hearing.
 - c. What limits or restrictions (if any) will be imposed on testimony.
 - d. Whether or not testimony must be in written form, and the date by which such written testimony must be received.
 - e. Any other special requirements.
9. Sufficient time should be allowed for the parties to prepare and appear. Unless the rules of the competition dictate sooner, the Discipline Committee shall schedule the hearing within a minimum of seven (7) days following notification of a hearing.
10. Any decision rendered by the FYSA Discipline Committee may be appealed to FYSA Board of Directors
11. No State Association, Official, Team, Referee, or Player may invoke the aid of the courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of the organized associations. For violations of this rule, the offending party or parties shall be subject to suspension from this organization and be liable for all legal expenses incurred and the time of the officials of the organization. These include court fees, attorney fees, compensation for time spent by FYSA, AYSA, USSF officers and employees, travel expenses and expenses for special meetings necessitated by court action.



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- vii. A Claim of ignorance of these policies and procedures shall not be satisfactory grounds for the alteration or waiving of such policies or procedures.

III. PENALTY CODE

- a. Judiciary Committee for this purpose will be the FYSA Board of Directors. This committee will administer the corrective penalties as set forth.
- b. Objective: To establish a recommended, but not mandatory, set of guidelines for uniform enforcement of "reported" infractions by use of corrective penalties. To eliminate, or greatly reduce, the intolerable actions, attitudes, and activities of some soccer players, coaches, parents and others. To place on notice the FYSA Membership (i.e. players, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, team managers, parents and all other interested parties) that the infractions outlined in this guideline will no longer be tolerated without corrective action in the form of standardized penalties.
- c. The objective of this guideline will not be realized unless 'reports of infractions' and/or other Improper activities from referees, coaches, players and parents reach FYSA Discipline Committee
 - i. Reports of Infraction defined as:
 - 1. Caution – yellow card
 - 2. Ejection – red card
 - 3. Letter of information or inquiry
- d. The FYSA Board of Directors will take action on all properly reported matters.

e. PLAYERS

i. CLASS OF INFRACTION

- 1. Class I – Verbal
 - a. Swearing (profanity on the field)
 - b. Arguing with Referees or Linesman
 - c. Harassing or criticizing Referee or Linesman
 - d. Yelling at players, coaches or fans
- 2. Class II – Physical
 - a. Continued tripping, jumping, kicking, handballs or pushing
 - b. Retaliation to above
 - c. Other
- 3. Class III – Physical – Violent Intentional
 - a. Assault on Referee or Linesman
 - b. Assault on player
 - c. Assault on coach
 - d. Assault on spectator
 - e. Retaliation "beyond defense" of his person

ii. PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

- 1. Class I
 - a. Minimum: Referee caution or removal of player during reported game
 - b. Maximum: (1st Report) One (1) game suspension.
 - c. Maximum: (2nd Report) Three (3) game suspension.



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- d. Maximum: (After 2nd Report) One (1) year suspension from date of misconduct
 - e. Exception: Unusual circumstances may dictate a stronger or lighter penalty.
 - 2. Class II
 - a. Minimum: Referee caution or removal of player during reported game
 - b. Maximum: (1st Report) Three (3) game suspension.
 - c. Maximum: (2nd Report) Suspension for remainder of current season: to include all ASYSA administered competitions.
 - d. Maximum: (After 2nd Report) Two (2) year suspension from date of misconduct.
 - e. Exception: Unusual circumstances may dictate a stronger or lighter penalty.
 - 3. Class III
 - a. Such assault shall suspend the offender automatically for a period of one (1) year from the time of such assault, no shorter suspension will be allowed, but if circumstances warrant a longer suspension will be imposed. The provisions of this rule will be executed within thirty (30) days of the offense, in case of failure to do so; original jurisdiction shall then immediately vest in the United States Soccer Federation to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provision as to the terms of suspension shall apply.
 - f. COACHES (includes Assistant Coaches, Trainers, Team Managers, parents of players on team, etc.)
 - i. CLASS OF INFRACTION
 - 1. Class I – Technical
 - a. Swearing (profanity on the field)
 - b. Verbal abuse of Referee or Linesman
 - c. Verbal abuse of coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, club officials, parents, or any other persons.
 - d. Allowing Ineligible players
 - e. Inciting or encouraging others to commit or engage in items a-d
 - f. Others
 - 2. Class II – Physical
 - a. Coach assault on player (his team or opposing team)
 - b. Coach assault on game officials – Referee/Linesman
 - c. Coach assault on other coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, club officials, parents, or any other persons
 - ii. PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS
 - 1. Class I



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- a. Minimum: game immediately forfeited by team of offending coach
- b. Maximum: (1st Report) Suspension from coaching for 3 consecutive league games
- c. Maximum: (2nd Report) Suspension for balance of season, to include all ASYSA administered competitions
- d. Maximum: (After 2nd Report) 1 year suspension from date of misconduct.
- e. Exception: Unusual circumstances may dictate a stronger or lighter penalty.

2. Class II

- a. Such assault shall suspend the offender automatically for a period of one (1) year from the time of such assault, no shorter suspension will be allowed, but if circumstances warrant a longer suspension will be imposed. The provisions of this rule will be executed within thirty (30) days of the offense, in case of failure to do so; original jurisdiction shall then immediately vest in the United States Soccer Federation to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provision as to the terms of suspension shall apply.

g. Notes:

- i. The term "game(s)" is defined as all competitions, which fall within the jurisdiction of FYSA or AYSA.
- ii. If no league or tournament games remain for persons assessed game suspension penalties the penalty assessed shall apply to games in the following season.
- iii. In the event any caution or ejection, refusal of the individual to give his/her correct name to the referee may be cause for additional disciplinary action.
- iv. If misconduct is identified after the end of an individual's period of active involvement with FYSA, such as after a session has ended, the Executive Director and/or Disciplinary Committee may make a detailed record of the individual's actions and preemptively and temporarily suspend them from future involvement such as volunteering, employment etc. If the individual returns and requests further participation, whether directly or indirectly (such as via volunteer registration), they may be temporarily prevented from placement or consideration until and unless the past details of misconduct have been discussed and resolved, including, if necessary, the application of a formal process of Discipline and Appeals as outlined in this policy.