



NFYSA District League Discipline Policy

Fall Season: All U8-U10 and all U11-U12 Div 3

Spring season: For some Clubs U8-U10 REC play

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure a safe and positive environment exists by making all participants in soccer aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with BC Soccer's core values.

This policy applies in concert with the discipline policy set forth by the BC Soccer Association and their corresponding Conduct and Ethics Policy (<https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/k5kjsimr/conduct-ethics.pdf>).

This policy extends to all teams playing in the NFYSA District League regardless of which District they are member of.

These protocols exist to provide procedures for resolution and/or discipline for clubs and members involved in discipline incidents and to protect youth referees from abuse.

Definitions, Roles and Responsibilities

Incident

Any event or situation before, during, or after a match that may require review or disciplinary action. It may involve:

- Misconduct by players, coaches, or spectators
- Disputes over referee decisions
- Safety concerns or rule violations

Head Referee

The Head Referee is the lead official within a club's refereeing structure. Their responsibilities include:

- Receiving incident reports from referees, coaches, or witnesses
- Gathering additional information (e.g., witness statements, video evidence)
- Interviewing the Match Official
- Reporting the incident to the Technical Director of their club
- Reporting the issue to the NFYSA Discipline Chair

Technical Director

Each club has a Technical Director, who oversees the development and conduct of players, coaches, and referees. Their responsibilities include:

- Receiving the incident report from the Head Referee
- Contacting the Technical Director of the opposing club to attempt to resolve the issue
- Determining if further intervention is needed
- Reporting back to the Head Referee

NFYSA Discipline Chair

The NFYSA Discipline Chair is a neutral authority responsible for:

- Overseeing disciplinary matters across clubs
- Mediating unresolved disputes between clubs
- Ensuring fair and consistent enforcement of rules and conduct standards
- Making final decisions on disciplinary actions when club-level resolution fails

Incident Reporting Process

1. Incident is reported to the home club Head Referee.
2. The Head Referee:
 - a. Contacts the Game Official for their version of the event.
 - b. Reports the incident to the Technical Director of the home club.
 - c. Reports the incident to the NFYSA Discipline Chair.
3. The home club Technical Director of the Reporting Club:
 - a. Contacts home team's coach(s) / manager.
 - b. Contacts the Technical Director of the Opponent Club to discuss and resolve the issue.
 - c. The NFYSA Discipline Chair may get involved if further mediation is needed.
 - d. Contacts the home club Head Referee with confirmation of the resolution
4. The club Head Referee contacts the NFYSA Chair with confirmation of the resolution.

Examples of Common Incidents

Referee Abuse

- Verbal or physical abuse directed at referees by players, coaches, or spectators.
- Examples: yelling, threatening, or confronting referees before, during or after a match.

Abusive Language

- Use of offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language directed at:
 - Players (e.g., bullying, taunting)
 - Coaches (e.g., disrespectful or aggressive comments)
 - Parents/Spectators (e.g., arguments or insults from the sidelines)

Unsporting Behavior

- Actions that violate the spirit of the game. (e.g, deliberate fouls, time-wasting, or inciting conflict)

Physical Altercations

- Fights or aggressive physical contact beyond normal gameplay involving players, coaches, or spectators.

Safety Violations

- Situations that put players at risk. (Eg: unsafe field conditions, improper equipment, or ignoring concussion protocols).

Discrimination or Harassment

- Incidents involving any form of discrimination that involves any unwanted physical or verbal behavior that offends or humiliates. BC Soccer defines Harassment and Discrimination in their Conduct and Ethics Policy

<https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/k5kjsimr/conduct-ethics.pdf>