



CENTRAL LEAGUE – SOUTH CAROLINA AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION (CL-SCASA)

DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES

Revised 1 January 2010

The CL-SCASA President, as by the league's Bylaws, appoints at least three individuals to the Discipline Committee (DC). For other than a minimum red card penalty, the DC will assess an incident and notify the Team Rep and player of the penalty.

Guidelines for league penalties

The following are the general guidelines for suspension and penalties for players from game incidents:

2 yellow cards in one game:	minimum 1 game suspension, + \$25 fine
1 straight red card:	minimum 1 game suspension + \$40 fine
2 straight red cards in one season:	suspension for remainder of season
fighting:	minimum 3 game suspension
referee verbal abuse*:	minimum 3 game suspension
referee physical assault*:	minimum 3-month suspension

Long-term suspensions that are reported to the USSF and USASA, must be enforced by all state soccer associations at the direction of the federation.

* Referee abuse and referee assault are defined in Policy 531-9 of USSF, which mandates these minimum suspensions. Such cases are handled by State Association (SCASA), and all suspensions must be recognized by all SC leagues. Other member associations, such as the state youth association, may also recognize such suspensions.

Misconduct Toward League Officials, League Administrator, and Game Officials

Misconduct by players and spectators towards League Officials, including League Board Members and Officers, the League Administrator, and Game Officials (i.e. referees) shall not be tolerated. Misconduct is defined here as:

Persistent statements or physical acts toward the League Officials during or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or referee abuse as provided under US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9, but mistreat the League Officials or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts, and may include the following:

- a) excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the League Officials;
- b) statements that diminish the authority of the League Officials;
- c) statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the League Officials.

Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:

- a) confronting the League Officials in an abusive manner without physical threats;
- b) spitting on the ground or in the air but not at the League Officials;
- c) throwing or kicking an item as a sign of dissent but without the chance of hitting the League Officials;
- d) refusing to leave the playing area and premises as requested by the League Officials;
- e) re-entering the field to confront the League Officials.

These are only some of the examples of possible misconduct and are not all-inclusive.

Penalties for misconduct will range based on the severity of the misconduct and prior history (if applicable) of the individual or team but shall NOT less than a three (3) game suspension. This suspension is in addition to any other suspension and/or fine that may be imposed on the individual by the CL-SCASA or SCASA. Penalties may be imposed on the individual, and/or the Team Rep, and/or the entire team and may range from the minimum mandated 3 game suspension, to long-term suspension, to indefinite suspension, to disbanding of the team.

Furthermore, if it is deemed that the Team Rep did not intervene to get the guilty player and or spectator under control, or stood passively while such misconduct took place, then additional sanctions may be imposed upon the Team Rep. A formal hearing will not be held unless it is requested by the accused party.

Serving of penalties and suspensions

Any fine imposed must be paid before the players may play again.

All suspensions issued, unless otherwise specifically stated in writing by the DC of the CL-SCASA, shall be served through the next specified number of scheduled game(s) for the player's team. For a suspension to be considered as "served" the game must take place. In the event of cancellations (due to weather or other factors) or a forfeit (i.e. the next scheduled match is not played because one or both teams do not have enough players) the suspension shall not be considered as "served" and the suspended player will continue his/her suspension until the next scheduled game(s) is (are) played.

For players with Dual Registration (i.e. playing on more than one team), serving of a suspension shall be assessed as follows:

- A suspension resulting from a red card that did not involve fighting, striking an opponent, referee verbal abuse, or referee physical abuse, and that is 1 or 2 games in length shall be served by the player on the next game of the team that the player was playing on at the time of the incident.
- A multi-game suspension (defined here as 2 or more) that did involve fighting, striking an opponent, referee verbal abuse, or referee physical abuse shall be served by the player on games of the team that the player was playing on at the time of the incident. Furthermore, during the term of the suspension, the player MAY NOT play in matches for another team. In these cases the DC shall specify if the suspended player will be allowed to play in other affiliated leagues during the period-of the suspension.

- For all “time suspensions” (i.e. 1 month, balance of season, lifetime, etc.) the suspension shall apply to ALL teams and ALL (affiliated) leagues that the player plays on.

Procedures

A player ejected from a match must leave the field and area. The Referee will keep the ejected player’s card and send it with a game report to the League Administrator (LA), who will notify the player and the team rep of the penalty.

The Referee or any League Official (LA, Board Member, Officer, or Field Marshal) may also ask abusive fans to leave the fields. If the fan does not comply and the team affiliation of the fan can be determined, the Team Rep must assist in removing the fan from the field area. Each Team Rep and all players are **responsible** for the conduct of their supporters. Referees have the authority to forfeit a team in the case of unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of anyone associated with a given team. The DC has the authority to disqualify teams and award forfeits for inappropriate behavior by supporters even after the game has been completed if circumstances warrant such action.

Enforcement of suspensions of players, coaches, volunteers, fans, spectators, etc. issued by the DC are the responsibility of Team Reps and all players. Non-compliance with DC rulings may result in forfeit of game(s) and additional sanctions.

Fines should be paid by check (made out to CL-SCASA) and mailed to the LA at the address below ASAP so as not to cause delays in re-instating the player’s eligibility.

Once the suspension has been served and any fine has been paid to the league, the LA will mail the player card back to the Team Rep. It is the responsibility of the Team Rep to ensure that the Player Pass is returned to them in time for the next match.

Appeals

All appeals to the CL-SCASA DC must be made through the Team Rep, who may on behalf of a player appeal a disciplinary penalty in writing by email or certified mail to the LA within 48 hours of the incident. If by email, the sender may not assume the email was received until getting a return confirmation.

A \$25 fee shall be assessed for every appeal made. Should the DC rule in favor of the appeal, the \$25 shall be returned.

The DC will consider the appeal, including, if it deems necessary, receiving further clarification of the incident’s circumstances from the player, the referee, or other witnesses. The DC will normally send its decision in writing by email or mail before the affected team’s next game. Note that only members of the league (defined as registered players, registered coaches, registered volunteers, registered referees, or board members) have the right to appeal.

For disciplinary matters handled by the SCASA (for example referee assault or abuse), appeals must be made directly to the USSF United States Soccer at Federation National Appeals Committee, c/o Daniel T. Flynn, Secretary General, 1801-1811 South Prairie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616 US Soccer and a \$300 appeal fee must accompany the appeal.

The DC normally concerns itself with judging the severity of an offense and deciding on the appropriate penalty. Without very strong, clear evidence from independent eyewitnesses, the DC

is not able to tell whether the ref made a mistake with a call. For this reason the DC does not as a general rule overturn a ref's decision made on the field. Players and Team Reps should bear this in mind before making an appeal.