

NCYSA DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS EDUCATION



The Referee Sent Off The Wrong Player

It doesn't happen often, but when it does, it can create multiple issues!

For example, player #17 commits a foul, denying a goal scoring opportunity. The referee blows their whistle, confers with the AR and gives a red card to player #11. Perhaps there was confusion. Perhaps there was another incident at the same time. Perhaps the referee mistook "17" for "11".

From the LAWS OF THE GAME – 2018-19

"The referee may not change a decision on realising that it is incorrect or on the advice of another match official if play has restarted or the referee has signalled the end of the first or second half (including extra time) and left the field of play or terminated the match."

What Should We Do?

First, be respectful. It's understood you will have a limited amount of time to get the RR's (Center Referee's) attention or the attention of the AR (Assistant Referee), but do your best to get their attention – in a respectful manner.

Be concise. Don't yell about the "bad call", let them know there is bigger issue – the wrong player has been ejected.

Get your Captain on the field to engage in the referee – respectfully!

If you have the attention of the officials, let them know you understand there is foul and ejection, but that the player ejected was not involved in the play. Let them know specifically which player. At this point, the player who actually committed the foul should also be with their Captain, ready to answer the referee's questions (e.g. admit they are the guilty party).

That Didn't Work – The Game Was Restarted

At this point, NCYSA has no rule or precedent to overturn a Referee's decision to eject a particular player. Until a new Guideline or Rule is in place, the player ejected on the official report (Match Report and/or Supplemental Report), will be the player who will serve the sanction.

Remain calm and have your Coach or Director of Coaching contact the D&A Administrator at the NCYSA State Office on the next business day.