



NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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NCYSA Dealing with Reported Incidents of Discriminatory Language or Actions

Guidance to Match Officials

This procedure sets out guidelines for Match Officials when a match participant (player/ Coach/ Technical Staff) reports discriminatory language or actions that has taken place before, during, or after the match but was not seen or heard by the Referee Crew.

This policy is specific to situations where the reported individual is a Player, Coach, or Team Official. If the reported individual is a Spectator the Referee should address the issue using the Addressing Spectator Misconduct Policy. You may still use this procedure as a guideline for communicating with coaches and players about the incident with the spectator.

1. Stop the match as soon as possible

- a. Indicate that any restart of play will occur after you have taken steps to address the allegation(s) of discriminatory language/ actions.

****It is required that the Referee take the following steps in the presence of the other most senior member of the Referee Crew while the third Match Official watches the field and all participants.**

2. In instances where the reporting individual is a Player

- a. The Referee will accompany the Player to his/her technical area and in the presence of their coach give the reporting participant(s) time to fully explain what they witnessed. Players in particular may experience a heightened emotional state, so facilitate this step with the help of the player's coach where appropriate. In cases where a term that the Referee is not familiar with is reported, the Referee should ask the reporting Individual what that term means as they understand it.



3. Confer with all members of the officiating crew

- a. Determine if they witnessed or heard the discriminatory act/statement. If so, use the appropriate sanction detailed in the Laws of the Game and NCYSA Policy.

4. In the presence of the accused person's coach

- a. Inform the accused Player/Coach/Technical staff of the allegation made against them. If they choose to admit the offense, issue the correct sanction per IFAB Laws of the Game and NCYSA Policy and note that the participant admitted to the action in the Referee Match Report.

5. Address the coaches of both teams together without either the reporting or accused players present

- a. Inform them of the details of the allegation and whether a sanction has been issued. It is essential that both coaches are aware of the reported offense and that it will be reported through proper channels post-match but that they still have a responsibility to ensure their players continue the match in a fair and sporting manner. Referees cannot force a team to continue if they choose to no longer play. Include those details in your supplemental report

6. Before restarting the match, the Referee Crew should document (write down) as many details as possible

- a. including the interactions they had with the reporting person and the accused individuals, coaches, etc. These details will be crucial for any supplemental investigation/action taken by NCYSA.

7. Once you restart the game

- a. The Match Officials should be aware of the impact the allegation will have had on the emotions of all participants, and the high likelihood that the game's temperature will have risen. The Match Officials should remain extremely vigilant throughout the remainder of the game and use their management skills to maintain firm control.

8. The restart should correlate with the manner the referee stopped the match:

- a. Play stopped due to a reported incident but no sanction issued - Dropped Ball: The referee drops the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball or would have touched it had play not been stopped and at the position where it last touched a player. The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in their penalty area if, when play was stopped the ball was in the penalty area or the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area.



- b. Play stopped due to a reported incident and sanction issued: indirect free kick for opponent of reported player
 - c. Ball out of play when offense reported: restart unchanged
9. **Post-match:** The Referee Crew MUST confer with each other to ensure all details of the alleged incident are recorded for the Match Report and Supplemental Report.
10. The Referee should then Call the assignor of the match and inform them of the incident as well as any details they ask for.
11. The Referee should enter the match information into the NCYSA Match Report as normal ensuring to enter ALL details of the alleged incident into the 'Additional Comments From the Game Official's section at the bottom of the report. Additionally fill out the NCSRA Red Card / Supplemental Report here: <https://www.ncsra.org/redcards> and indicate whether a sanction was issued to the participant as well as all other details of the incident.
12. The Referee Crew should anticipate and respond to any further communication from the Match Assignor and NCYSA staff concerning the incident
13. If the Referee needs additional assistance with this process they should email DA@NCSoccer.org

