

## **AYSO Section 7 Disciplinary Guidelines**

### **Updated April 30, 2018**

#### **I. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION.**

These guidelines are established to govern designated competitions in AYSO Section 7. Such designation shall be made by the Section Director, in his discretion. These guidelines are intended to support the IFAB Laws of the Game and the American Youth Soccer Organization policies. Any person who has been disciplined under or subject to these Guidelines may still be subject to discipline under Area Guidelines or Regional Guidelines applicable to that person.

#### **II. MISCONDUCT BY PLAYERS.**

- a. A player who is sent off (e.g., red card offense) shall be suspended for the balance of the game being played and at least an additional one (1) game suspension.
- b. A player who is sent off (e.g., red card offense) for committing one of the following offenses shall be suspended for the balance of the game being played and an additional two (2) game suspension.
  - i. Serious Foul Play that is extremely rough or brutal;
  - ii. Violent Conduct;
  - iii. Spits at an opponent or any other person;
  - iv. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, including without limitation, toward any player, substitute, coach, spectator and game official, administrator, etc.
  - v. Verbal threat, physical threat or threatening gesture with or without body contact.
- c. The Section Disciplinary Committee may impose an additional length of suspension, including without limitation additional games or a period of time depending on the severity of the infraction or other factors.
- d. Multiple Violations
  - i. The accumulation of three cautions (e.g., yellow card offense) in any AYSO games within any twelve-month period will result in the player being suspended from play for the following game. The player will be allowed to complete the game underway barring any further misconduct. The one-game suspension shall reset to zero the accumulation of cautions once the one-game suspension has been completed.
  - ii. Any player that accumulates three send offs (e.g., red card offense) in any AYSO games within any twelve-month period will be suspended and required to appear before an AYSO Disciplinary Committee for a hearing. The Section Disciplinary Committee shall determine the terms and conditions for continuing suspension, reinstatement and/or probation, if any. Failure of the player to appear at the hearing will cause that player to be suspended for twelve months from the date of the third send off.

#### **III. MISCONDUCT BY COACHES.**

- a. A coach shall be suspended for the balance of the game being play and an additional two (2) games for the following occurrences or behavior.
  - i. Any expulsion.
  - ii. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, on or off the field of play whether or not during a game, that is not directed at game officials or AYSO officials.
  - iii. Intentional and/or repeated action either that is either unsporting or creates unjustified delay regarding any game.

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- b. A coach shall be suspended for the game in play and an additional four (4) game suspension for the following occurrences or behavior:
  - i. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, on or off the field of play whether or not during a game, that is directed at game officials or AYSO officials.

#### **IV. MISCONDUCT BY GAME OFFICIALS.**

- a. Any instance of misconduct or bad behavior by a game official may be reported by any person to the Section Director via the Area Referee Administrator for the applicable area. Misconduct by game officials may include negative, offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, on or off the field of play whether or not during a game in which they are officiating, that is directed at any game official, coach, player, administrative official or other participant in an AYSO activity.
- b. The Disciplinary Committee may impose discipline with regard to the behavior of the game official. This may include, without limitation, suspending the game official from further play or participation in AYSO activities until any problem or issue has been resolved or for any period of time. This can include directed mentoring, assessments or retraining. In all cases regarding game officials, a game official higher in grade (badge level) shall be consulted regarding the offense and proposed discipline. In the event the game official is a "National" badged game official, the disciplinary committee will seek guidance from the Section Game official Administrator.

#### **V. SUSPENSIONS.**

- a. Suspensions are in effect until completed.
- b. Suspensions will carryover if necessary from one season to the next within a soccer year and from one soccer year to the next.
- c. Suspensions will carry over into AYSO tournament play or from AYSO tournament play into AYSO seasonal play as necessary. The player or coach must appear on the team roster for the season or tournament in order for the suspension to be considered served.
- d. Suspensions will apply not just to games but will apply also to any AYSO activities including until the suspension is completed, including without limitation to practices, training, clinics, etc.

#### **VI. MISCONDUCT BY TEAM SUPPORTERS.**

- a. Head coaches and assistant coaches must do their utmost to help maintain an orderly and civil behavior near the field of play. They may, if necessary, obtain the attention of the game official who has the sole authority to stop the game if in his or her judgment he or she finds it necessary or appropriate.
- b. Coaches will be held responsible for the behavior of their team supporters (e.g., parents, spectators, etc.).
- c. Any instance of team supporter misconduct may be reported by any person to the Section Director. Misconduct by team supporters will include without limitation negative, offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, on or off the field of play whether or not during a game, that is directed at any game official, coach, player, administrative official or other participant in an AYSO activity.

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- d. The Disciplinary Committee may impose discipline with regard to the behavior of team supporters. This may include, without limitation, suspending the team for any period of time until any problem or issue has been resolved.

#### **VII. SECTION DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.**

- a. The Section Director shall appoint (and may change the membership of) one or more Section Disciplinary Committee(s).
  - i. A Section Disciplinary Committee may have jurisdiction over a particular geographic area (e.g., without limitation a particular island or portion thereof) or over a particular activity (e.g., without limitation all or any tournament involving teams from different islands).
  - ii. A Section Disciplinary shall:
    - 1. Have a Chair responsible for administering the activities of the Committee.
    - 2. Three or more members (including the Chair) who will participate in decision-making.
    - 3. One or more alternates (listed in order of priority) to take the place of member who cannot or should not participate with respect to a particular matter for good reason such as without limitation prolonged inability to participate due to absence or illness, conflict of interest, etc.
- b. The Section Disciplinary Committee shall conduct a review regarding the following. The Section Disciplinary Committee may communicate, act and make decisions as determined its Chair including without limitation by meeting in person or by electronic communication including without limitation, conference telephone call, video conferencing, email, etc.
  - i. Each report of a player being sent off
  - ii. Each time a player accumulates enough misconduct to warrant a suspension
  - iii. Each reported misconduct by coaches, team supporters or spectators
  - iv. As directed by the Section Director
- c. The Section Disciplinary Committee may, but need not, in its sole discretion seek further information or testimony before making a decision.
- d. The Section Disciplinary Committee shall have authority with respect to the discipline imposed on the person who is subject to these Guidelines including without limitation the following.
  - i. Confirming the discipline stated above under these Guidelines.
  - ii. Imposing discipline in addition to discipline stated above under these Guidelines.
  - iii. Lessening the discipline stated above under these Guidelines.
  - iv. Any combination of the foregoing.
- e. The members of the Section Disciplinary Committee making a decision should not be from the same region as the person(s) being disciplined or investigated for discipline related matters and should not, if possible, be from regions that were “victims” of the disciplinary infraction(s).
- f. The Section Disciplinary Committee may seek advice from the Section Coach Administrator or Section Referee Administrator or both depending on the issues under consideration.
- g. The Disciplinary Committee will convene as soon as practicable after the infraction or event that triggered the matter. The Section Disciplinary Committee will complete a review and decision, if practicable, prior to the next scheduled competition, but shall take as much time as it determines necessary to review and decide the matter.

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- h. Any person that is subject to a decision by the Section Disciplinary Committee under these Guidelines may, through the Regional Commissioner of the region with jurisdiction over that person, appeal that decision and request to be heard by the Section Disciplinary Committee regarding such decision. Such request may be made not later than three (3) calendar days after the Section Disciplinary Committee has made a decision and notified the that Regional Commissioner of the decision. The Section Disciplinary Committee may, but need not, grant an extension of this deadline in its sole discretion. The Section Disciplinary Committee shall conduct a hearing within a reasonable time after request in such manner as is determined by the Section Disciplinary Committee in its discretion including without limitation the following.
  - i. The hearing may be in person, by conference telephone call or video conferencing.
  - ii. The Section Disciplinary Committee may require that testimony or any portion of testimony be presented in person or not, in writing or not.
  - iii. The Section Disciplinary Committee may ask questions of any person appearing before or presenting testimony to the Committee. No other person shall have the right to ask such questions.
  - iv. No person shall have the right to be present during or have access to the testimony of any other person.
  - v. The Section Disciplinary Committee need not create or maintain a transcript of proceedings or other records other than written documents submitted to it.
- i. The Section Disciplinary Committee shall make a written statement of its decision, which may or may not contain findings of fact or conclusions regarding policy or rules which shall be communicated to the Regional Commissioner of the region with jurisdiction over the affected person. The Regional Commissioner shall be responsible to communicate the same to the affected person (through the coach if the affected person is a player).
- j. The decisions of the Section Disciplinary Committee shall be the final determination of the matter subject to appeal.

#### **VIII. DISCIPLINE TRACKING AND REPORTING.**

- a. It is the responsibility of the Section Director to track all reported activities that may result in disciplinary consequences under these rules. The Section Director may delegate this responsibility or others including the Section Disciplinary Officer, Area Directors, the Section Disciplinary Committee with jurisdiction over the applicable geographic area or any other person(s).
- b. The game official responsible for any game regarding which there has been activity that may result in disciplinary action under these Guidelines shall complete and submit to the Section Director an AYSO Referee Report describing any pertinent facts known to the game official or disclosed to the game official by another member of the game official team. Such activity requiring such a Referee Report shall include without limitation cautions or sendoffs for a player, expulsions for a coach and any behavior described in the sections above dealing with misconduct by player, misconduct by coaches or misconduct by team supporters.
- c. Any other AYSO volunteer, such as without limitation a board member, coach, team supporter or other official, may submit to the Section Director an AYSO Incident Report regarding any activity that may result in disciplinary action under these Guidelines.
- d. The Section Director or his designee shall distribute the Referee Report or Incident Report, and in his discretion any other reports, to:

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- i. The Section Disciplinary Committee with jurisdiction over the applicable geographic area.
- ii. The Area Director with jurisdiction over any of the participant(s) whose activity is the subject of the Referee Report or Incident Report.
- iii. The Regional Commissioner with jurisdiction over any of the participant(s) whose activity is the subject of the Referee Report or Incident Report.
- iv. The AYSO volunteer in charge of or with oversight over the competition (e.g., without limitation league or tournament) that included the activity that is the subject of the Referee Report or Incident Report.
- e. It is the responsibility of each Regional Commissioner to ensure that discipline of players, coaches and spectators within their region are completed appropriately.

#### **IX. Appeals.**

- a. Appeals of decisions of the Section Disciplinary Committee must be submitted in writing to the Section Director within three (3) calendar days from the appealed decision. The Section Director may, but need not, grant an extension of this deadline in his or her sole discretion.
- b. The decision of the Section Director regarding an appeal shall be the final decision of Section 7.
- c. No protests or appeals of decisions based on the judgment of the game official regarding a game shall be allowed.
- d. All suspensions shall continue to be served during the Section Disciplinary Committee's review of any matter and/or Section Director's review of any submitted appeal.