

USSF North Carolina

NCYSA Directive Re enforcing foul language prohibition

NCYSA Policy Directive on Enforcing Rules Against Foul Language

Click the link above to download a WORD document with the policy. It is also reproduced below:

To: All NC USSF Referees

From: Paul James, State Referee Administrator

Date: Monday March 17, 2014

Re: Use of profanity or abusive language at NCYSA matches and immediate directive to strictly enforce rules against it

The administration of NCYSA, the primary governing body for the vast majority of youth soccer games played in North Carolina, and the principal customer for most referee services, feels strongly that the use of profanity, vulgarity, and abusive language by players, coaches, managers, and spectators has risen to an unacceptable level. NCYSA is directing officials assigned to its matches to strictly enforce the rules against foul language effective immediately. **All NCYSA participants have been advised of this initiative and have been provided fair warning.** No one should be surprised when they are sanctioned for the use of foul language and referees are directed to immediately pay close attention to this issue in future matches and take appropriate measures to prevent its further occurrence.

The Laws of the Game are quite clear and specific. Any player using “offensive, insulting or abusive” language directed at another person shall be shown the red card and sent off. Coaches, managers or other bench personal who use such language toward another shall be dismissed from the match. Spectators using such language toward another must be removed from the area of the match. The home team authority is responsible for the removal of any such spectator should the referee determine that they must leave and the game shall not be restarted until such spectator has been removed.

For any player using clearly audible “incidental” foul language, i.e. profanity not directed at any one person and not meant to be abusive, referees shall issue a caution and show the yellow card for such actions. Coaches, managers or other bench personal who use such clearly audible incidental foul language, not toward another, shall be warned by the referee and upon repetition they shall be dismissed from the match. Spectators using such clearly audible foul language not toward another may cause the game to be stopped and the home team authorities requested to warn such spectators to cease and upon any repetition of these actions observed by the referee crew, the guilty parties must be removed from the area of the match. The home team authority is responsible for the removal of any such spectator should the referee determine that they must leave and the game shall not be restarted until such spectator has been removed.

Spectators taunting players in any way should not be tolerated. However, regardless of the

provocation, no player or other match participant may respond with “offensive, insulting or abusive” language and if they do so the only permissible sanction is a red card send off.

In your own matches you may not have observed any of these problems and for the vast majority of well-behaved and well played matches it probably is not a problem. However, for a significant minority of NCYSA games it is a problem and the perception from these matches is reflecting badly on the product as a whole. Please begin strict enforcement of this immediately. NCYSA is fully aware that such strict enforcement may, at least initially, well result in a large number of yellow and red cards. Referees who enforce this policy will be fully supported and should not hesitate to require strict adherence by participants.

On a completely unrelated note, all referees are reminded that ALL coaches at ALL levels must have a valid coaching pass to be in the bench area. This insures that such personnel have complied with risk management and been cleared by a background check. Referees should check coach passes at EVERY game. This includes recreational games or other games where the players themselves may not have player passes to be checked. Still check coach passes.

Sent out in addition on 3/18/14

NCYSA has discovered/remembered that although all recreational associations are provided coaching passes, not all associations actually distribute them to their coaches. In light of this NCYSA has requested NCSRA to revise the policy directive sent out yesterday regarding checking coach passes for recreational matches.

Referees are still asked by NCYSA to ask to see the coaching pass for any coach in the bench area prior to the game and for Classic and Challenge Coaches they MUST have a pass. However, at this time, if a RECREATIONAL coach does not have a pass please allow them to still participate but bring to their attention the fact that in the near future they may be required to present a coaching pass at each game in light of the NCYSA Risk Management Program.

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