

Guidance for the Referee Abuse and Assault Form

Authority of the Referee: LOTG 2021/2023 Law 5 3. Disciplinary Action Pg. 60

-takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and warns or shows a yellow card for a caution or red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

*When issuing a Caution or Red Card to a coach or team official, **DO NOT** engage in an Extended Discussion. State the message and return to the center of the field.

*If when issuing a red card, ejection to a coach and they refuse to leave the immediate surrounds terminate the match. DO NOT go toward your bags or equipment until that team leaves the area. If possible, send AR2, the referee furthest from the coach to retrieve your equipment/bag.

Referee Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact. It implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.

Examples:

- Verbal and nonverbal communication which contains foul or abusive language and which implies or directly threatens physical harm;
- throwing a beverage on or spitting at a referee or the referees personal property;
- remarks such as: "I'll get you after the game," or "You won't get out of here in one piece."

These examples qualify as an **immediate ejection** from a match along with this referee report.

STOP this early in the match as it will spread into the players, and fans.

Referee Assault is an "intentional act" of physical violence at or upon a referee.

US Soccer defines an "intentional act" as an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interest of another in way that is socially unacceptable.

The unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.

Examples:

- striking, kicking, choking, head butting, grabbing, or bodily running into a referee;
- spitting on or at a referee with an intent to do so;
- kicking or throwing an object at an official that could inflict injury;
- damaging the referee's uniform or personal property (e.g., car, uniform, quipment")

These examples qualify as an **immediate ejection** from a match along with a Referee Report

Venting (Frustration) vs Complaining:

There is a fine line between venting and complaining. On the receiving end, they can look similar because venting and complaining share some of the same emotions such as, anger, and frustration. Venting is less frequent; it is a sharing of a feeling

When a coach is venting, they really do not want an answer. "Come on ref, you missed that foul." Coaches who complain just love to complain.

- * Be aware that a coach who has said nothing in the first half of the match to your calls and in the second half of the match yells out "come on ref number 11 is holding." Your response could be, "Okay coach got it, thank you." You have acknowledged his comment and perhaps the coach has a valid point.

Laws of the Game 2021/2022 Law 12 pg. 107

Warning

The following offenses should usually result in a warning. Repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off.

- entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- failing to cooperate with a match official: ignoring instructions/requests from an assistant referee or fourth official.
- minor low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
- occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offense

Caution

- clearly /persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- delaying the restart of play by their team
- dissent by word or action including:
 - throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects (in the technical area)
 - actions which show a clear lack of respect for the match official
 - sarcastic clapping
- excessively/persistently gesturing for a yellow or red card
- acting in a provocative or inflammatory behavior
- showing lack of respect for the game

Sending off

- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
 - show disrespect towards, or argue with a match official
 - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field
- entering the field of play to:
 - confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
 - interfere with play, an opposing player, or match official
- physical or aggressive behavior towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, spectator, or any other person (ball boy/girl, security or competition authority)
- receiving a second caution in the match
- using offensive, insulting, or abusive language or actions
- violent conduct

When filling out the Referee Report of Abuse form be sure to add the time in the match in which the incident occurred.

Use the exact words the person who was ejected used towards you or a member of the officiating crew.

DO NOT use abbreviations for foul language. If you write the coach called me the “B” word that could be “bat, baby, building, etc.” If the coach used the “F” word write the complete word out. If you do not the report could be thrown out.

It is **Critical** to get the information on the form **Correct**. Get with your referee crew after the match and compare notes.