



Lake Norman Soccer Club

Discipline and Appeals Guidelines

All Staff, Coaches, Parents and Players as members of Lake Norman Soccer Club are subject to the Discipline and Appeals procedures of the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA) under the NCYSA Constitution and By-laws. The Code of Conduct and Discipline and Appeal Procedures governing all associated with youth soccer through the NCYSA are defined for teams and individuals in the Discipline and Appeals Manual. Specific violations for individuals are defined and the consequences prescribed under the Rules and Regulations (Section 5, Rule 3 & 9 on pages 9 thru 16). The Discipline and Appeals Manual is updated annually and can be found at www.ncsoccer.org under Administration tab.

Each NCYSA Affiliate Club is required to address violations of the NCYSA Code of Conduct and Rules and Regulations by its membership in accordance with the Club's By-laws and Code of Conduct under the leadership of their Discipline and Appeals Representative. **The Affiliate Club may alter suggested punishments by the NCYSA, if circumstances warrant, but may not provide shorter periods of suspension where players, coaches, spectators, or team officials are found guilty of making threatening gestures or using threatening language or profanity to players, other coaches or officials.**

The following is a composite of the most common violations and significant penalties addressed in the NCSA Discipline and Appeals Manual and are not intended to be all inclusive:

1. Players guilty of fighting other players, coaches, or spectators before, during or after games shall receive a two (2) game suspension.

Coaches, spectators or team officials who are guilty of fighting before, during or after a game will be brought before the LNSC D & A Committee for appropriate discipline, with a minimum two (2) game suspension.

2. Players guilty of making threatening gestures against or using threatening language or profanity to other players, coaches, spectators or any league official shall receive a one (1) game suspension.

Coaches or Spectators guilty of this infraction shall receive a two (2) game suspension.

3. Players guilty of pushing or striking any coach or team official shall receive a two (2) game suspension.

4. Any player found guilty of violent conduct with the intent to seriously injure or encouraging such conduct shall receive not less than a five (5) game suspension. The NCYSA may additionally impose up to one year suspension from all NCYSA sanctioned events.

Coaches, team officials or spectators found guilty of violent conduct or encouraging such conduct shall also receive a one minimum (1) year suspension. The NCYSA may additionally impose a one (1) year suspension from all NCYSA sanctioned events.

5. The minimum suspension period for **referee abuse** shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the rules of competition. (Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act

not resulting in body contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or their property or equipment.)

6. Players, coaches, managers, spectators or team officials committing **referee assault** is automatically suspended as follows:
 - a. For minor or slight touching of referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from time of assault;
 - b. For any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault.
 - c. For assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or
 - d. For assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.
7. Players guilty of violate conduct (committed either off the field or on the field against an opposing player or other while the ball is dead or not in the area of play for the ball) shall be suspended for one (1) game.
8. Any violation of the NCYSA Code of Conduct or the LNSC Code of Conduct not specifically covered in the provisions above will be heard by the LNSC D &A Committee and/ or the NCYSA D &A Committee. Person found guilty of violating the Code of Conduct can be penalized by probation, suspension or fines

LNSC Zero Tolerance Policy

9. Coach, spectator or team official **interfering with play** of the game will be warned on the first reported or observed offense and suspended on the second offense a minimum of one (1) game. (Interference at LNSC includes banter or continuing negative statements during the game to the referee, players or coaches beyond the initial reaction to an event or call by the referee.)

Coaches, parents and spectators shall not:

- a. Dispute calls during or after games.
- b. Make remarks too the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- c. Yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.

Coaches, parents and spectators are allowed the following exceptions to the above:

- d. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation, until such time as the referee terminates the conversation.
- e. Point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player apparently injured on the field or observed fighting.
- f. Request explanation (Coaches ONLY) of a law or foul in a polite and constructive manner during the halftime interval or after the game.

Appeals of Decisions by the LNSC Executive Director or Director of Soccer will be made to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors within seven (7) days of the notification of the decision. For decision upheld by the LNSC Board of Directors an appeal may be made to the LNSC Discipline and Appeals Committee within fifteen (15) days of notification. The decision of the LNSC Discipline and Appeals Committee are Final. **For complaints addressed under the NCYSA Discipline and Appeals the procedures and appeals are defined in the NCYSA Discipline and Appeals Manual at www.ncsoccer.org**