

REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION – Effective March 31, 2025

US Soccer Policy 531-9 Penalty Overview / Youth & Amateur supersedes **any and all** current Bylaws and Policies related to Referee Abuse found within ASA’s Bylaws, Policies and Hearing Manual.

The Penalties Matrix below defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES OF GROSS MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, AND / OR ASSAULT.

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
YELLOW ZONE		
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
ORANGE ZONE		
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive Or Threatening (Non-Physical) Language	4	
RED ZONE		
Aggressive, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical) / Violent / Language	6	6 – 24 Months
CRIMSON ZONE		
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 – 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES OF GROSS MISCONDUCT, ABUSE, AND / OR ASSAULT.

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
YELLOW ZONE		
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
ORANGE ZONE		
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non-Striking Manner, Or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
RED ZONE		
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spiting, Chocking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object of Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

- These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non-red zone offenses.
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity / circumstances.**
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment.**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban.**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense.**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **“minor multiplier” resulting in triple punishment.**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively.
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given.**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor.**

I, _____, have read, understand and accept both the *Referee Abuse Prevention Policy* and the *Clarification of Abuse of an Official by Parents/Spectators Policy*.

Signature

Date