

NTSSA Guidelines for Misconduct

NTSSA has developed the following two Misconduct Systems for Associations to use and/or modify for inclusion in their rules, a **Cumulative Card System** and a **Cumulative Point System**. Regardless of any system adopted, All Member Associations, Playing Leagues and Tournament Officials are directed to operate and keep records of misconduct for all players/coaches and assistant coaches. Appeal of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Sanctions for misconduct will remain within the competition where they are earned unless the violation happens in the last game of that competition and the Member Association/Player League or Tournament Officials deem that it is serious enough to forward to the **NTSSA A&D Committee** for consideration of further sanctions. If no Misconduct System is adopted by an Association then one of the following appropriate Misconduct Systems will apply.

CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM

Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. **Yellow Cards** A player receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition.
2. **Red Cards** A player receiving a red card or a coach/assistant coach who is sent off is suspended for the balance of that game and the next game within that competition, or if in the last game of the competition, may be referred to North Texas for further sanctions.
3. **CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM** for league play will be operated as follows:
 - a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third league play yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth league play yellow card. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth league play yellow card.

***NOTE:** A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game. The two yellow cards are not added to such individual's total of league play yellow cards but a Red card will be added to such individual's league play red card total.*

- b. **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first league play red card. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all **NTSSA**-sanctioned activities following such individual's second league play red card. Red cards issued *solely* as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will be added to such individual's league play red card total.

***NOTE:** In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.*

- c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in league play (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven) shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing from all **NTSSA** sanctioned activities.

- d. **Exception** When misconduct cards are issued during a league game that is being used to determine the standings and final outcome of a regional or national league under direct control of US Youth Soccer; the regional or national body that has been charged with the operation of said league will have jurisdiction over misconduct pertaining to games of that league. All penalties received during these games will be served in the regional or national league having jurisdiction and not in the player or team's home association league.

4. **CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM** for tournament play will be operated as follows:

- a. **Yellow Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's third yellow card. Two game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's fifth yellow card of the tournament. One game automatic suspension for the game following such individual's sixth yellow card of the tournament.

***NOTE:** A player/coach/assistant coach receiving a second yellow card in a single game is suspended for the balance of that game, but those two yellow cards are not added to such individual's total of yellow cards for that tournament to determine whether additional game suspensions, if any, are required. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow in a single game will be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.*

- b. **Red Cards** One game automatic suspension for the game following an individual's first red card of the tournament. Automatic suspension, pending a hearing, from all NTSSA-sanctioned activities following such individual's second red card of the tournament. Red cards issued solely as a result of a second yellow card in a single game will not be added to such individual's tournament play red card total.

***NOTE:** In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a yellow card followed by a "straight red card" (as opposed to a red card issued solely as a result of a second yellow) both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of tournament play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.*

- c. **Seventh Card** Any individual obtaining a seventh card in tournament play shall be immediately suspended pending a hearing with NTSSA A&D Committee (meaning any combination of yellow and red cards totaling seven)
- d. **Exceptions**

For misconduct cards issued during State Cup, Regionals, or National competitions (US Youth Soccer), the misconduct will be handled within that competition.

The "**CUMULATIVE CARD SYSTEM**" above defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be given. Nothing herein prevents enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

Any misconduct by an individual justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the Member Association and/or Playing League with which the individual is affiliated. The Member Association and/or Playing League shall promptly (within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the report) rule on the report.

A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with.

Game suspensions for Yellow and Red cards (as set forth above) are to be served by the individual at the next scheduled played game within the competition in question (not necessarily the next league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) which such individual's team is involved. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

EXTREME VIOLENT CONDUCT

Severe punishment will be extended to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

EXCEEDING THE CARD LIMIT

Individuals who exceed the card limits above shall be sent to the NTSSA A&D Committee for further disposition. The NTSSA A&D Committee will issue any decision and/or monetary punishment based entirely upon the officials' reports and any other written reports before it, including that of the affected individual, should he or she submit a report. A hearing will not be held by the NTSSA A&D Committee unless it, of its own volition, chooses to call one because of the nature of the case.

CUMULATIVE POINT SYSTEM

Misconduct of Players/Coaches/Assistant Coaches

1. In the **CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM** for all player/coaches/assistant coaches, offenses resulting in the cautioning or send-off of a player/coach/assistant coach by the referee (yellow card/red card) are awarded points according to their seriousness ranging from one (1) to four (4) and twelve (12). Appeals of cards are not allowed except when the referee admits he made an error in the issuance of the card. Points are cumulative during each soccer season. When a player/coach/assistant coach accumulates various point limits, sanctions are applied as described in Sections 4 and 6 below. Total points for a player/coach/assistant coach includes their Caution plus Send-off points. Total points for a team includes all accumulated points from players, coaches and assistant coaches. A player transferring to another team during a season will carry over his or her accumulated points to their new team.
2. **POINT LIMITS**
 - a. **Player/coach/assistant coach point limit** is determined by multiplying the number of scheduled games in the current season by three (3).
Example: 10 scheduled games equals 30 points (10 x 3 = 30).
 - b. **Team Point limit** is determined by multiplying the number of scheduled games in the current season by five (5).
Example: 10 scheduled games equals 50 points (10 x 5 = 50).
3. **CAUTION POINT ASSESSMENTS:**
 - a. **FOUR POINTS**
 - 1) Deliberate tripping, tripping and other "tactical", deliberate, physical fouls.
 - 2) Foul tackle from behind.
 - 3) Interference by other players when the referee is speaking to a player after an offense has been committed.
 - 4) Continued dissent of a decision in an attempt to unsettle the referee.

b. **THREE POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate, tactical obstruction.
- 2) Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game.
- 3) Shirt pulling and other similar tactics.
- 4) Deliberate encroachment at free-kicks.

c. **TWO POINTS**

- 1) Deliberate handball designed to break up attack.
- 2) Time wasting, including that by the goalkeeper.
- 3) Moving arms up and down to obstruct an opponent.
- 4) Gesticulating in front of a player taking a free-kick or thrown-in.
- 5) Fails to respect required distance or unsporting behavior at a penalty kick.
- 6) Other unsporting behavior.

d. **ONE POINT**

- 1) Entering or leaving the field without the referee's permission.
- 2) Player leaning on a teammate to gain an extra height.
- 3) Pulling oneself up by the goal post or crossbar to gain an advantage.

Note: *If a player receives two Cautions in a single game, they will be treated as a Send-Off and will not be counted towards the Accumulated Caution Points total.*

4. **ACCUMULATED CAUTION POINTS SANCTIONS**

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| a. Twelve (12) Accumulated Caution Points | One Game Suspension |
| b. Eighteen (18) Accumulated Caution Points | Two Game Suspension |
| c. Twenty four (24) Accumulated Caution Points | Suspension pending A&D Committee Inquiry |

5. **SEND-OFF POINT ASSESSMENTS:**

a. **TWELVE POINTS**

Send off from game due to Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting at Opponent/Person, Denies Goal Scoring Opportunity or Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language

For a send-off from a game due to misconduct after receiving a caution, except for twelve (12) point offenses as stated above, points will be based on two (2) cautions.

NOTE: *In cases where, during a single game, an individual receives a caution followed by a "straight send-off" both cards will be added to such individual's respective total of league play red and yellow cards and punished accordingly.*

NOTE: *If the Member Association A&D Committee determines that a send-off was issued for an infraction that was not an "expulsion" offense in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, the Member Association may reduce the red card to a yellow card and assess points for the yellow card. The Member Association may not, however, do away with the card altogether.*

6. **ACCUMULATED SEND-OFF SANCTIONS**

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| a. One Send-off | One Game Suspension |
| b. Second Send-off | Two Game Suspension |
| c. Third Send-off | Suspension pending A&D Committee Inquiry |

7. FINES

- a. Players/coaches/assistant coaches exceeding thirty (30) accumulated points - \$50
- b. Players/coaches/assistant coaches exceeding thirty (30) accumulated points a second time in one soccer year - \$100
- c. Teams exceeding fifty (50) accumulated points - \$100
- d. Teams exceeding fifty (50) accumulated points a second time in one soccer year - \$200

NOTE: All fines must be paid prior to further participation in any NTSSA sanctioned activity

NOTE: This is the **minimum** disciplinary punishment taken on point accumulations. Nothing herein prevents more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

The “**CUMULATIVE TWELVE (12) POINT SYSTEM**” above defines the minimum disciplinary punishment to be given. Nothing herein prevents enacting more severe sanctions. Each case should be judged on its own set of circumstances and degree of misconduct or violence, the latter of which must be dealt with swiftly and severely.

Any misconduct by an individual justifying a report by a referee or any other person shall be directed to the Member Association and/or Playing League with which the individual is affiliated. The Member Association and/or Playing League shall promptly (within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the report) rule on the report.

A coach whose conduct is less than exemplary to his or her players, parents and spectators will be firmly dealt with.

Game suspensions for cautions and send-offs (as set forth above) are to be served by the individual at the next scheduled played game within the competition in question (not necessarily the next league, playoff, championship, cup, and local or state tournament games) which such individual's team is involved. A suspension imposed by these rules shall be recognized by all affiliated organizations after proper notification. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the offense shall not affect such individual's suspension.

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