

V. DISCIPLINE (NTSSA Rule 3.11, Generally)

- A. Authority: All coaches must distribute the NTSSA Disciplinary Rules from the NTSSA Administrative Handbook to every player, assistant coach, and manager. It is intended that the player and/or coach will make known the contents of this rule to his or her parents and spectators. The NTSSA Disciplinary Rules will be the main guideline utilized by the LHGCL A&D Committee for Discipline, including any directives issued by NTSSA in connection with the Disciplinary Rules.
- B. Appearance Before Committee:
1. A&D Committee: LHGCL shall have an Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) Committee which shall consist of a Chairman and no more than ten (10) additional members who are appointed by the A&D Chairman with approval of a majority of the Executive Board. Two or more members of the A&D Committee, plus the Chairman or his designee shall constitute a hearing committee. The Chairman may only vote in case of a tie vote. The A&D Chairman may hold hearings on:
 - a. Any player sent off from a game.
 - b. Any coach officially dismissed or cautioned.
 - c. Any other person dismissed from a game, *e.g.*, parent, manager, spectator, etc.
 - d. The accumulation of an excessive number of cards by any LHGCL team.
 - e. Any other matter deemed by the President, A&D Chairman, or Executive Board to require committee attention.
 2. Discipline Assessments: For assessment of penalties for excessive card totals, the A&D Committee will utilize the NTSSA guidelines as published in the NTSSA Administrative Handbook as minimum penalties and all directives and explanations issued by NTSSA in connection with those guidelines. ~~The A&D Committee Chairman shall assess the penalties for situations not requiring a hearing. League standing points shall be automatically deducted from teams accumulating an excessive number of cards during the soccer year as follows:~~
 - ~~a. One (1) point shall be deducted when a team reaches 10 cards (yellow or red), and the team may be required to attend a hearing by the LHGCL A&D Committee; and~~
 - ~~b. Three (3) additional points shall be deducted when a team reaches 18 cards (yellow or red) and the team will be required to attend a hearing by the LHGCL A&D Committee; and~~
 - ~~c. A team shall be suspended from LHGCL play pending the required hearing with NTSSA when a team reaches 25 cards (yellow or red). These point deductions are in addition to any other penalties and/or punishment that can be assessed against a team in accordance with these Rules.~~
 3. Endorsement of NTSSA Policy: LHGCL endorses the policy regarding violence, misconduct, and appeals of NTSSA:
 - a. Any player or coach cautioned has the right to appear before the A&D Committee. Anyone sent off or dismissed may be required to appear before the A&D Committee. The Committee shall base its decisions primarily upon the official's written report to the Committee.

- b. Only the coach or manager may represent a team at the A&D Committee hearing. The A&D Committee may, at its discretion, hear other interested parties.
 - c. Any party required to appear before an A&D Committee hearing and failing to do so, shall be suspended from all LHGCL games until such time as she/he does appear.
 - d. The A&D Committee shall make a reasonable effort to hold a hearing on any matter coming to its attention within seven (7) days of receipt of the report requiring such action.
 - e. A player, coach or any other person who has been sent off or dismissed shall be automatically suspended for the next game the team actually plays that said player, coach, or person plays for, coaches, or is affiliated with, whether or not a misconduct report has been received by the A&D Committee.
 - f. ~~Any player who receives two (2) cautions within five (5) consecutive LHGCL games may be required to appear before the A&D Committee and may be suspended for one (1) game.~~
 - g. The home coach and visitor coach are each responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the referees—before, during, and after the game. Each coach is responsible for the behavior of his/her team’s spectators and players.
 - h. FIFA rules allow the referee to issue cautions, send offs and dismissals before, during, and after the game. State and national rules stipulate that any instances of alleged referee abuse or assault will be referred directly to NTSSA.
 - i. Yellow and red cards are not customarily shown to non-players who are being cautioned or dismissed. The referee verbally informs the non-player that he/she has been cautioned or is dismissed.
- C. Appeals of Decisions of the A&D Committee: Appeals of decisions of the A&D Committee may only be made to the LHGCL Executive Board. A written appeal must be received by the President of LHGCL within five (5) days of the decision of the A&D Committee and must be accompanied by a cashier’s check or money order in the amount of ONE HUNDRED AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$100.00), made payable to the LHGCL which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The appeal procedures must follow the guidelines of the NTSSA.
- D. Responsibility for Team:
- 1. Qualified Coaches: The Qualified Coach shall be the coach duly designated by each team on its official NTSSA roster.
 - 2. Coach’s Responsibility: The LHGCL recognizes that the coach, assistant coach and team manager are each responsible for their team. However, in the event disciplinary action is necessary, it will be the coach’s responsibility to answer for the team.
 - 3. Coach and/or Manager Represent Team: Only the coach and/or manager of record may represent an entire team and all of its members at a disciplinary hearing. The coach is responsible for the behavior of his spectators and players, both individually and collectively. The disciplinary committee may, at its discretion, hear other interested parties.
 - 4. Responsibility at Games: A coach, assistant coach, team manager or parent must be present with and responsible for the team and spectators during all games.

E. Conduct: Conduct of coaches, players, parents and/or spectators is expected to be of the highest caliber when such individuals are participating in NTSSA and/or LHGCL sponsored events, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, any misconduct (including, but not limited to, profanity, abusive language, and/or obscene gestures) shall be dealt with in a decisive manner, in accordance with LHGCL regulations, and/or NTSSA Rules and Regulations as may be appropriate. Misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, or unethical behavior is not limited to the field of play or at games. Defining unsportsmanlike or unethical behavior lies with the LHGCL Executive Board and/or A&D Committee.

1. Coaches

- a. LHGCL coaches (and assistants, whether listed officially on team rosters or not) are expected to act and teach in sportsmanlike, ethical and gentlemanly ways.
- b. Actions that are deemed to be unsportsmanlike or unethical are considered to be detrimental and/or prejudicial to soccer and to the LHGCL. Such actions should be reported in written detail to the LHGCL so that they may be investigated by the A&D Committee.
- c. A coach suspected of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct may be asked to appear before the A&D Committee. If found guilty, the coach may be reprimanded or suspended for some specific period or number of games, depending on the severity of the incident.
- d. Suspensions are to be served by the coach/assistant coach/ manager/or team representative at the next scheduled game (regular league games, makeup league game, play-off game, championship cup game, local or state tournament game) that his/her team actually plays. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify his or her suspension (to sit out) the next game.
- e. If the LHGCL Executive Board receives word through the referee reports, written complaint by a team, or a commissioner that there is a team that is disruptive from the sidelines or out of control on the field, the manager, coach and/or team may be required to appear before the A&D Committee for investigation, regardless of the number of cards accumulated by the team.
- f. Cautions or dismissals given to coaches in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, as modified for youth play, shall be dealt with in the following manner as a minimum:
 - (1) Cautions: The accumulation of three (3) cautions by a coach in any playing season shall require a one-game suspension; that being the next scheduled game actually played by his/her team. No appeal shall be allowed under this system.
 - (2) Dismissals: A dismissal received by a coach results in an automatic one-game suspension; that being the next scheduled game actually played by his/her team. No appeal shall be allowed under this system. The coach must also pay a \$25.00 fine as set out below.
 - (3) Dismissed Coaches: A coach who receives a dismissal at any time before, during or after a LHGCL game must immediately (following the dismissal) remove

himself/herself from the soccer fields, the parking lot and any other location where he/she may observe his/her team's game for the remainder of the game and he/she may not participate in any post game meetings or activities of his/her team at the soccer fields, the parking lot or any location adjacent to the soccer fields. If a coach breaches this rule, his/her team may receive a forfeit for the game at which he/she was dismissed, in addition to the other penalties¹ the coach receives as a result of his/her misconduct.

- (4) The coach is responsible for maintaining control of the sidelines, including the conduct of all players and nonplayers, including parents and other spectators. In the event of misconduct on the part of a non-player, the coach will be warned to get the situation under control. If the coach fails to do so, and the non-player is dismissed from a game, the coach is also dismissed and must leave the field of play, surrounding area, parking lots, surrounding streets, etc. All rules pertaining to a coaches' dismissal will apply in this situation, including but not limited to the fine, and the resulting suspension, etc.
- g. A coach that is dismissed may be required to appear before the A&D Committee who may assess additional penalties to those listed above, if deemed appropriate. The A&D Committee also has the right to call a coach in for a hearing for a caution issued to the coach.
 - h. A coach that is dismissed is required to pay a fine of \$25 (cashier's check or money order), payable within 10 days of the dismissal and prior to the next scheduled league game. This fine shall be paid whether or not a report by the referee is turned in. A coach will not be allowed to appear at any LHGCL game until the fine is paid. The fine must be given or sent to the A&D Committee Chairman, league President, or league Executive Director. The fine must be received by one of these league officials prior to the coach's next appearance at any LHGCL game. Failure to comply with this section may result in the coach's team forfeiting the game at which he/she appeared prior to the fine being paid, plus any additional penalties¹ as determined by the A&D Committee.
 - i. Violent conduct by a coach may result in additional penalties up to and including lifetime suspension.
 - j. Use of the "F" word by a coach, on or off the field, when related to LHGCL sponsored activities and reported by an LHGCL official or referee will result in a minimum suspension of two (2) games and may require appearance by the player before the A&D Committee. However, coaches, if dismissed from a game for use of the "F" word, will not be responsible for sitting out a second game until the A&D Committee has notified the coach, manager, or player that a second game suspension is applicable.
2. Players
- a. Misconduct of players shall be dealt with only when written reports are submitted to the LHGCL. These are usually referee reports, but misconduct need not be confined only to the field of play. The referee misconduct reports are required to be postmarked, faxed, or hand delivered to the LHGCL no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the game in which the misconduct

- occurred. (Sundays and holidays are excluded when calculating the 72-hour time period.)
- b. The LHGCL shall operate under the NTSSA “cumulative card system” as defined in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book.
 - c. When a player is sent off from a game, a one-game suspension results, that being the next game her team actually plays. For a second send off during the year, a player is suspended pending her appearance before the NTSSA A&D Committee.
 - d. Automatic suspensions are to be served by the player at the next scheduled game (regular league games, makeup league game, playoff game, championship cup game, local or state tournament game) that the player’s team actually plays. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify her suspension (to sit out) the next game.
 - e. Violent conduct by a player, on or off the field, when related to LHGCL sponsored activities will result in a minimum suspension of two (2) games and may require appearance by the player before the A&D Committee. At the discretion of the A&D Committee, the suspension may be lengthened up to ten (10) games, or such sanctions assessed as are appropriate to the offense. However, players will not be responsible for sitting out more than one game until the A&D Committee has notified the coach, manager, or player that additional game suspensions are applicable.
 - f. Use of the “F” word by a player, on or off the field, when related to LHGCL sponsored activities and reported by an LHGCL official or referee will result in a minimum suspension of two (2) games and may require appearance by the player before the A&D Committee. However, players, if sent off from a game for use of the “F” word, will not be responsible for sitting out a second game until the A&D Committee has notified the coach, manager, or player that a second game suspension is applicable.
3. All Other Persons (spectators, parents, team managers, etc.)
- a. Actions that are deemed to be unsportsmanlike or unethical are considered to be detrimental and/or prejudicial to soccer and to the LHGCL. Such actions should be reported in written detail to the LHGCL so that they may be reviewed by the A&D Committee.
 - b. Any person affiliated with an LHGCL team that is suspected of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct may be required to appear before the A&D Committee. The person may be reprimanded or suspended for some specific period or number of games, depending on the severity of the incident.
 - c. Use of the “F” word by any other persons, on or off the field, when related to LHGCL sponsored activities and reported by an LHGCL official or referee will result in a minimum suspension of two (2) games and may require appearance by the player before the A&D Committee. However, the person, if dismissed from a game for use of the “F” word, will not be responsible for sitting out a second game until the A&D Committee has notified the coach, manager, or player that a second game suspension is applicable.
 - d. Any non-player (e.g. parent or spectator) that is dismissed from any LHGCL game shall be required to pay a \$50.00 fine to LHGCL in the form of a

cashier's check or money order. The fine shall be paid whether or not the referee turns in a misconduct report on the incident. The team with whom the non-player is affiliated shall be responsible for making sure that the fine is properly and timely paid. The fine must be delivered to the LHGCL A&D Chairman, league President, or league Executive Director before the offending person is eligible to appear at another LHGCL game. Failure to comply with this section may result in the team with whom the offending person is affiliated receiving a forfeit for each game at which he/she appeared prior to the fine being received, plus any additional penalties¹ that the A&D Committee may assess in its discretion. This fine is in addition to any other penalties that may be assessed against the offending person by the A&D Committee.

- e. If a parent of a player is dismissed from any LHGCL game two times during year in which one or more of his/her children is participating as a player(s), then said parent's child or children, as the case may be, shall be automatically suspended for the next game following the second suspension of the parent that the team actually plays. Failure to strictly comply with this rule may result in the player's team receiving a forfeit for that game, plus any additional penalties¹ and/or punishment as determined by the A&D Committee. The team's coach and manager may also be subject to such other and additional penalties¹ as may be determined by the A&D Committee if they fail to make sure that the player(s) serves the suspension. In the event that a parent is dismissed, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the coach and manager that he/she has been dismissed. If the parent fails to inform the coach as required herein, then the parent and his/her child or children may be subject to such additional penalties¹ as the A&D Committee shall determine.

NOTE: The penalties listed above and in the NTSSA Administrative Rule Book are minimum penalties and cannot be reduced. These suspensions must be served whether or not the referee turns in a misconduct report in a timely manner. Game suspensions shall be served only at regularly scheduled league games or tournament games that the team actually participates in. Sitting out of scrimmage games, forfeited games, friendly games, or games where the player is a guest player do not satisfy the suspension requirement.

- F. Suspensions imposed by NTSSA, the LHGCL Executive Board, or the LHGCL A&D Committee shall be served as follows:
 1. Suspended Adults
 - a. Any person (coach, assistant coach, manager, team representative, parent, or spectator) other than a LHGCL player that is suspended by LHGCL or NTSSA shall not appear at any LHGCL game for the duration of their suspension period. "Appearance at a game" shall be defined as the adult being present at the game field, in the parking lot, on any street adjacent to the field, or at any other location where the adult may observe the game. If the adult breaches the suspension and appears at the game field, parking lot, etc., the team the adult is affiliated with may receive a forfeit for that game.
 - b. If the adult breaches the suspension by appearing at the field, in the parking lot, on any street adjacent to the field, or at any other location where the adult may observe the game, the adult will be required to appear before the LHGCL Executive Board and the following additional penalties¹ may be assessed:

- (1) If the adult has a child on the team, the child may be suspended by the LHGCL Executive Board to serve out the parent's suspension period; or
 - (2) If the adult does not have a child on the team, the team may be expelled from the league for the remainder of the current soccer year and all of the following soccer year and can only be readmitted to the league through proper tryout procedures.
2. Suspended Players.
 - a. Suspended players may appear on the sidelines at LHGCL games during their suspension period, but shall not wear any part of their team uniform and shall not participate in any team activities, including but not limited to, warm-up, acting as team captain, or being with the team during pre-game, halftime, or post-game gatherings on the pitch.
 - b. Breach of paragraph (a) above may be cause for the player to be required to appear before the A&D Committee and for additional suspensions to be imposed.
 3. Spectators
 - a. The A&D Committee, in its discretion, shall hold hearings concerning the misconduct of any spectator (any person other than a player or coach) at a LHGCL game that is reported to the A&D Committee.
 - b. The A&D Committee shall assess the spectator and/or team which he/she is affiliated such penalties¹ as it deems appropriate. The A&D Committee shall use the NTSSA Disciplinary Rules as a guideline, but it shall also have the authority to assess the spectator game suspension(s) for his/her conduct.
 - c. A spectator is "affiliated" with a team if the spectator is related to a player, coach, or parent of the team.
 4. Suspensions
 - a. The penalties hereinabove set forth in this Section V. and in the NTSSA Disciplinary Rules are the minimum penalties that must be assessed. The A&D Committee, at its discretion, may assess greater penalties than the minimum penalties.
 - b. Suspensions must be served whether or not the referee turns in his misconduct report in a timely fashion. Game suspensions shall be served at regularly scheduled LHGCL games, make-up league games, or sanctioned tournament games that the team involved actually plays. Scrimmage/friendly games, guest player games, and forfeited games do not satisfy the suspension requirement.

¹Additional sanctions may include but are not limited to: a minimum fine of \$100; additional game suspensions; if a parent or relative of a player is involved, the player may be suspended; point deductions from the team involved. When determining what sanctions to apply to a given situation the league will place emphasis on whether or not the action could materially change the outcome of a game or a team's participation in the game. For example, a coach watching his team play from a vantage point during his/her suspension – and "coaching" by cell phone - may be deemed to materially effect the conduct of a game and his/her team would generally be assessed a forfeit for the game.