

5A – Disciplinary Rulings and Suggested Punishments

These are minimum suggested guidelines. Member Association’s guidelines may be more stringent. Suggested punishments may be altered based on specific information. As per the FIFA DISCIPLINARY CODE, Second Title, Chapter II, Subsection III, Article 98: “*Facts contained in match officials’ reports are presumed to be accurate.*”

1. Players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials found guilty of Referee assault and/or Referee abuse of a game official shall be subject to penalties set out in USSF Policy 531-9, Misconduct toward Game Officials, as stated in Section 8 of this Manual.
2. Players guilty of pushing, striking and/or fighting other players, coaches, team officials, league officials or spectators before, during or after a game shall receive a minimum two (2) game suspension. Coaches, Spectators, and other adults found guilty of pushing, striking, and or/fighting shall receive a minimum three (3) game suspension.
3. Players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials found guilty of using profanity, either by word or sign, against other players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials before, during or after a game shall receive a minimum one (1) game suspension.
4. Players, found guilty of making threatening gestures against other players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials before, during or after a game shall receive a minimum one (1) game suspension. *These gestures do not include Referee Abuse.*
5. Coaches and/or spectators found guilty of making threatening gestures against other players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials before, during or after a game shall receive a minimum two (2) game suspension. *These gestures do not include Referee Abuse.*
6. Players guilty of violent conduct committed either off the field or on the field against an opposing player while the ball is dead or not in the area of play for the ball, or on the field while the ball is in play, or serious foul play shall receive a minimum one (1) game suspension.
7. Players found guilty of violent conduct with the intent to seriously injure or encouraging such conduct against other players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials before, during or after a game shall receive not less than a five (5) game suspension.
8. Coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials found guilty of making threatening gestures or using threatening language or profanity to players, coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials before, during or after a game shall receive a minimum two (2) game suspension.
9. Coaches, spectators, team officials or league officials found guilty of violent conduct with the intent to seriously injure or encouraging such conduct against any players, coach, spectator team officials or league officials before, during or after a game, shall receive a minimum of a one (1) year suspension.
10. Spitting at an opponent will carry a minimum 2-game suspension. Spitting on an opponent will carry a minimum 5-game suspension.
11. In Classic and Select play, the D&A Chairperson or Manager will investigate every match when a coach or team official removes their team from the field of play before the end of a match. A one (1) game suspension shall be given to the coach, plus penalties for forfeiting the match. If a coach or team official abandons a match for safety reasons, the team must request the D&A Chairperson or Manager to investigate the matter within forty-eight (48) hours of the match to determine if sanctions apply.