

DISCIPLINE: a practical Guide.

For Referees and Head Referees:

- Yellow cards are to be noted on game sheet with caution code.
- Red card reports are required. Referee to submit to Club Head Ref within 48 hours, and the format is “open”. By this I mean that the official OSA form can be used, or email communication with equivalent information.
- Club head referee submits to ESL/NPHSL Discipline Chair as soon as possible – email preferred as listed on web site <http://www.escarpmentsoccer.com> under “Contact Us”.
- It is possible that I will find out about a problem game before the report gets to me and then I will be expediting the head referee to get the report to me.

For Convenors:

- Convenors please notify yellow and red cards to the discipline chair by email or phone. I can wait for notifications of yellows: they only become critical at three in a season, then at five, etc. Red cards, though, I need to know about as soon as you do.
- Players receiving three yellow cards in the season must sit out the next game after the third. Players receiving a red card sit out the next game. It’s up to the coach to know this: the team forfeits the game if a suspended player plays, and there are also sanctions against the player and the coach.
- Red carded players usually (not always) need to sit out more than one game. This is notified by the Discipline Chair, so the player sits out one, then keeps playing until told not to.
- Convenors should keep track of cards for each player and it is courteous to remind coaches of the automatic suspensions – although saying “I didn’t know the rules” is absolutely no defence. It is the coach’s job to know the rules. It’s a serious issue to play while suspended.
- When there are suspensions, these are to be verified by checking the game sheet of the following game. A player listed on the game sheet is deemed to have played.

Coaches:

- Players must sit out a game if they get a red card, or receive three yellows in a season. No appeal against this: it’s automatic, and if the player plays while suspended, that’s big trouble.
- If a player receives a red card and they wish to contest it, this is done by requesting a hearing within 48 hours of the offence. There is a \$75 fee for a “request for hearing”, which is returned if verdict is “not guilty”.
- Most discipline cases are carried out by “review”, which means the player does not attend a hearing, they are notified of the verdict, and there is no appeal against any penalty. This applies to relatively minor offences with suspensions in the range of 1 to 3 games (e.g. denial of goal scoring opportunity, 2 yellows in same game).
- More severe offences (e.g. violent conduct with intent to injure) must be dealt with by hearing, and these are held on Fridays, 7pm, in Acton. Don’t just show up, though, wait for a notice.
- Notice to attend will be sent to the Coach and to the Club. The league does not have player contact info and so we can’t send the notice to the player. The coach must therefore tell the player promptly. One reschedule is allowed if the player is on vacation, say. Rights to observers, witnesses, etc will be included in the notice.
- All discipline will be carried out in accordance with OSA. Discipline and Appeals Procedure, details of which can be found on the OSA website at <http://www.ontariosoccer.net>.
- All players are subject to a \$20 fee for a Discipline case, whether there is a hearing or not. This is levied against the Club, and they can choose whether to pass it on to the player.
- All coaches are encouraged to ensure that I know about red cards. Copy the game sheets to the Convenor and the Discipline Chair to help the process.
- Coaches are reminded to make sure the game sheet is accurate: all players listed are deemed to have played, and all players actually playing must be listed.