

REZYSA Code of Discipline

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Introduction

The mandate of the Regina East Zone Youth Soccer Association (REZYSA) is to provide a safe, fun and affordable place for the children of East Regina to play recreational soccer. For this reason any incident which shows disrespect for, or involves verbal or physical abuse of, the players, officials, the League or its officers or volunteers, is not tolerated. Such incidents are taken very seriously and it is the position of the League that the consequences of such behaviour should be serious enough to reflect the extent to which it undermines the mission of REZYSA.

This document is owned by the League Executive, and is used by the Executive members (or committee) responsible for discipline to provide guidance and consistency in the determination of consequences for offenses which may require disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Process

Normally the disciplinary process is handled between the official(s) at the game, the Referee Coordinator utilizing this code of discipline, and the offender.

If after the offender has been informed of the suspension, the offender does not agree with the facts of the suspension and wishes to appeal they may do so by providing, within 48 hours of receiving the suspension, written notice of appeal endorsed by at least one team coach to the Discipline Committee (via email to execs@rezysa.com). Reports from the accused and any other interested parties must be provided within a further 48 hours of the receipt of the notice of appeal. The League will convene a Disciplinary Committee hearing within 7 days of the receipt of the appeal.

Note that the League takes the discipline process seriously and does not tolerate frivolous appeals. As a result there are penalties for appeals which are upheld. If as a result of the appeal process the suspension is reduced or eliminated, the offender will only serve the reduced suspension (or not at all). If the original suspension is upheld or extended, the duration of the suspension will be doubled for appealing without merit.

Cautions

According to the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA) laws of the game, a referee shall caution any player, team official (coach or asst. coach) or spectator (parent), guilty of misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior.

If the offending behaviour persists, the referee shall expel such person(s) from the field and its view of play. This includes any player, team official or spectator who, in the opinion of the referee, is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, or the use of foul or abusive language.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team's spectators, and can be cautioned for failing to control their behaviour.

Yellow Card Infractions

Yellow Card infraction is given when a player or team official: (in the judgment of the referee)

- 1• Persistently infringes the laws of the game
- 2• Shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee
- 3• Is guilty of unsportsmanlike behavior
- 4• Is guilty of excessive taunting or celebrating.

Accumulating two yellow cards in one game is a Red Card infraction.

Red Card Infractions

A Red Card infraction (in the judgment of the referee) is given to players who:

- Is guilty of violent conduct
- Is guilty of serious foul play
- Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Persists in misconduct after having received a caution
- Accumulates 2 yellow cards in one game (automatic red card on the 2nd yellow card)

In any case where a player or other participant receives a red card they are immediately ejected from the game. As well, the Official must report the incident to the Referee Coordinator for further disciplinary action.

Such misconduct will result in the following additional penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of

the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Subsequent Penalties

Official Abuse

It is in the best interests of all participants of REZYSA to attract, train and retain good officials. In most cases these officials are teenagers and can be easily intimidated by their peers or people in positions of authority. For this reason abuse of officials is not tolerated.

Official abuse is defined as:

1. Repeated or uncontrolled questioning of an official's ruling,
2. Repeated heckling of the official during play.
3. Other misconduct that belittles the official or undermines the official's authority.

Such misconduct will result in the following additional penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next one (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary committee before the offender may participate in a subsequent season.

Indecent Gesture

Indecent gesture is any action or gesture which is intended to offend or belittle an individual involved in the game. This includes, but is not limited to, "giving the finger", mooning, grabbing of genitals, or other obscene acts:

Such misconduct will result in the following additional penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next one (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary committee before the offender may participate in a subsequent season.

Verbal Abuse

Verbal Abuse Not Involving Profanity

Players or other team personnel shall not participate in verbal abuse directed toward officials, players or spectators. The official shall initially warn the offender. If the abuse continues, or escalates, the offender shall be immediately ejected from the game.

Such misconduct will result in the following additional penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the player's team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Verbal Abuse Involving Profanity

Players or other team personnel shall use profanity, racial slurs or other derogatory remarks directed toward officials, players or spectators. The offender shall be immediately ejected from the game.

Such misconduct will result in the following additional penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the player's team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Threatening Physical Violence

Players or other team personnel shall not threaten physical violence directed toward officials, players or spectators. Examples of this are challenging persons to a fight, or threatening to hit or punch them or any other threat of physical violence. The offender shall be immediately ejected from the game.

Any participant receiving a Red Card infraction for threatening physical violence shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next (1) games played.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the

League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse by any player directed toward any official, player, coach, or spectator will not be tolerated. Any offender directing physical abuse at another person, whether an umpire, any member of another team, spectator, or a member of his own team, shall be immediately ejected from the game

Please note that if legal authorities become involved in any incident, the participants will be suspended from the league pending the outcome of any legal proceedings. Any league suspension required under this code will be applied only after completion of any civil or legal proceedings and reinstatement has been requested and received from the League Disciplinary Committee.

Initiating a Minor Physical Incident

A minor physical incident is an incident where minor physical contact occurs which is not of a threatening nature. Examples of this would be minor pushing. In this case the offender is the person who is first to initiate physical contact. Please note that this contact does not need to be of an offensive nature. Where the initial physical contact is of a defensive nature (i.e. restraining an individual to prevent a physical incident), it constitutes an escalation of a previously verbal incident to a physical incident and is punishable under this part of the code. While in most cases participants punished under this section will also be punished under one or more of the sections in this document, this is not a requirement. It is possible to initiate contact of a defensive nature, and not participate in the actual physical incident. This code is intended to punish the person who escalates an incident to a physical incident, whether or not they had offensive intent.

Any participant receiving a Red Card infraction for initiating a physical incident shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Participation in a Minor Physical Incident

A minor physical incident is an incident where minor physical contact occurs which is not of a violent nature. Examples of this would be minor pushing, or grabbing, spitting, deliberately throwing a ball at an opponent, or other actions involving physical contact which is not likely to injure and individual. In this case

the offender would be any person who participated as an active participant in the minor physical incident by directing physical actions against others. This code is not intended to punish persons who are on the receiving end of physical abuse, or who are passively protecting themselves. It is only intended to punish those persons who direct physical abuse against others.

Any participant receiving a Red Card infraction for participating in a physical incident shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next one (1) game played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Initiating a Major Physical Incident (Instigator)

A major physical incident occurs where the physical contact is of a violent or threatening nature. Examples of this would be major pushing resulting in hard falls, punching, or choking. In this case the offender is the person who initiates the major physical incident or who escalates a minor physical incident to a major physical incident. This is the person who is first to initiate major physical contact (i.e. the instigator). Initiation of a major physical incident cannot be considered defensive.

Any participant receiving a Red Card infraction for initiating a major physical incident shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Participation in a Major Physical Incident

A major physical incident occurs where the physical contact is of a violent or threatening nature. Examples of this would be major pushing resulting in hard falls, punching, or choking. In this case we are talking about all persons who participated as active participants in the major physical incident.

Any participant receiving a Red Card infraction for initiating a major physical incident shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next five (5) games played by the team.

- **Second Offense:** Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Participating in an Incident as a Peacemaker

Participating as a peacemaker refers to participating in an incident, whether verbal or physical, with the intent of ending the incident by attempting to calm a member of the opposite team, or by physically moving or restraining a member of the opposite team. This code is not intended to punish people who attempt to calm or restrain members of their own team.

While this behaviour may on the surface seem well intended. The fact is that interacting with members of the opposition when tempers are flaring usually angers the participants and the opposing team often leading to an escalation of the incident.

Any participant participating in a major physical incident shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- **First Offense:** Suspension for the next (1) game played by the team.
- **Second Offense:** Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- **Third Offense:** Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Participating in a Subsequent Incident

Participating in a subsequent incident refers to being involved in any subsequent incidents after the incident for which the participant was ejected. Penalties shall be applied for every subsequent incident in the same game. Note that any penalties incurred as a result of violation of other codes will also be applied to the subsequent incidents.

Anyone participating in a subsequent incident shall receive the following penalties in addition to the Red Card infraction penalties:

- **First Offense:** Suspension for the next one (1) game played by the team.
- **Second Offense:** Suspension for the next (2) games played by the team.
- **Third Offense:** Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Failure to Leave After Ejection

Once a participant has been ejected from the game, that person must leave the vicinity of the playing field immediately. The vicinity of the playing field is anywhere in the vicinity of the field where the player can interact with game participants in any manner including but not limited to shouting. Any player who verbally refuses to leave, or does not remove themselves from the vicinity of the field within one minute of being ejected should be punished under this code.

Such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next (1) games played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Third Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the participant may participate in a subsequent season.

Returning after Ejection

Any participant who has been ejected from the game, and who has left the vicinity of the field, and who returns to the field or vicinity for any reason shall be disciplined under this section. The vicinity of the playing field is anywhere where the player can interact with game participants in any manner including but not limited to shouting. Any player who returns to the vicinity of the playing field after leaving the vicinity should be punished under this section.

Such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offender:

- First Offense: Suspension for the next two (2) games played by the team.
- Second Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

Participating while Suspended

A suspended participant may not participate in their team's games in any manner for the duration of their suspension. This means the participant may not be present in any area normally considered part of the playing field or its vicinity during their team's games. Vicinity is to be interpreted as anywhere within shouting distance of the playing field (approximately 100 metres).

Such misconduct will result in the following penalties for the offender:

- Any Offense: Suspension from the league for at least the remainder of the season. Reinstatement must be applied for and accepted by the League Disciplinary Committee before the player may participate in a subsequent season.

General Notes

With every Red Card infraction, the game official(s) must provide a written statement to the Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the game conclusion. Other participants or interested parties may provide written statements to the referee-in-chief within 48 hours of game conclusion if they wish.

All suspensions are served consecutively.

A suspended participant may not participate in their team's games in any manner for the duration of their suspension. This means the participant may not be present in any area normally considered part of the playing field, or its vicinity, during any league game whether or not they involve their team. Vicinity is to be interpreted as anywhere within shouting distance of the playing field (approximately 100 meters).

Rained out games do not count towards suspended games. Only games physically played by the player's team are counted.

Playoff or tournament games do not count toward suspended games unless the suspension is incurred in the playoffs or tournament.

Suspensions not completed in one season will carry over to the next season the offender is registered in.

Suspensions incurred in a previous season will not be taken into account when assessing suspensions except in the case of reinstatement after a season suspension. In other words past offenders will receive a clean slate at the beginning of each season (except where serving a suspension from a previous season).

The discipline in this document is a guideline for consistency. The League reserves the right to deviate from this guide in circumstances where the offense is of a sufficiently serious nature to warrant increased penalties.

The League Executive has the best interests and safety of all players in the league in mind. Because of this the Discipline Committee can recommend to the League the permanent expulsion of any individual.

It is the responsibility of the participant to know their status to participate in the league.

REZYSA will honour all suspensions from RSA, SSA, or other soccer leagues. The responsibility is on the player to report external suspensions to the REZYSA League Disciplinary Committee for tracking.

Disciplinary Process

Generally discipline in REZYSA is managed without hearings. Upon receipt of a report from a game official, the REZYSA Referee Coordinator or his delegate shall manage and dispense discipline based on the official's report and the guidelines provided in this document.

Appeal Process

Suspensions are appealable to the REZYSA Discipline committee. A notification of intent to appeal must be received from the suspended person **and** one of his team coaches within 48 hours of the handing down of the original suspension. Within 7 days of this time a disciplinary appeal hearing will be convened. The date, time, and location of this hearing are solely at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee. The player will remain under suspension until this hearing.

The disciplinary hearing sets aside the original decision and will be a new review of the incident, with an independent finding. At this hearing the committee will hear from the official or his advocate, and the player as well as reviewing any written reports that have been submitted. The committee will deliberate to determine the applicable penalties, if any. The offending person will take any penalty from this review with no chance for further appeal. If the result of the appeal upholds or increases the original suspension, then the suspension will be doubled for frivolous appeal.

REZYSA Discipline Committee

The REZYSA Discipline Committee consists of an odd number of individuals chosen from the REZYSA Executive. The chair of the Discipline Committee is the REZYSA President. Other core members are the REZYSA Vice-President and REZYSA Secretary. Other members may be chosen from the League Executive at the President's discretion. The Referee Coordinator will not be a part of this Committee, but will act as an advocate on behalf of the game official(s).

Preparing a Disciplinary Hearing

The Discipline Committee shall consist of an odd number of people drawn from the REZYSA executive. The committee will consist of, at a minimum, the REZYSA President who will act as Chair, the REZYSA Vice-President, and the REZYSA Secretary who will record the minutes of the meeting. The Referee Coordinator will not participate in this committee but will act as an advocate on behalf of the official(s) that officiated the game. In the case where one or more of those people is not available the responsibility of those positions may be delegated to other REZYSA Executive members. The time and place for the meeting will be set at the sole discretion of the Discipline Committee.

Evidence in the form of the official(s) incident report(s), and the player and “interested party” reports provided as part of the appeal process are all that shall be required for the hearing to take place.

The accused must be present or the hearing shall not proceed and the suspension shall be recorded as upheld. They may be accompanied by **one of** either a team coach, manager or one of their parents or guardians.

Attendance by the official making the charge shall not be required. However, a referee may request to give evidence at any hearing.

The Hearing Process

The hearing shall proceed as follows:

- The Discipline Committee shall initially take time to read and discuss any report(s) submitted.
- The accused and representative shall be admitted to the room and the Committee will explain the sequence of the hearing process.
- The Referee Coordinator or delegate shall read the officials’ report(s) in its entirety. If the official(s) is present the official may provide any statements related to this report and the incident. The accused shall be given the opportunity to respond to or refute any details presented. The Committee may ask questions related to any statements made.
- The accused shall be permitted a maximum of five minutes to make a statement related to the incident. The committee shall ask questions related to this statement and any reports provided by the accused.
- The accused and representative shall leave the hearing room. The Committee will consider the evidence and any submissions and decide whether the charge is proven or not and following the code of discipline in assigning appropriate penalties.
- The accused and their representative shall be readmitted to the hearing room and informed of the decision.

Suspension Summary Table

Infraction	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Red Card Offense	1	2	Remainder of the season
Official Abuse	1	2	Remainder of the season
Indecent Gesture	1	2	Remainder of the season
Verbal Abuse	1	2	Remainder of the season
Verbal Abuse – Profanity	1	2	Remainder of the season
Threatening Physical Violence	1	2	Remainder of the season
Initiating Minor Physical Incident	1	2	Remainder of the season
Minor Physical Incident	1	2	Remainder of the season
Initiating a Major Physical Incident	2	Remainder of the season	
Participating in a Major Physical Incident	5	Remainder of the season	
Participating as peacemaker	1	2	Remainder of the season
Participating in a subsequent incident	1	2	Remainder of the season
Failure to leave after ejection	1	2	Remainder of the season
Returning after ejection	2	Remainder of the season	
Participating while suspended	Remainder of the season		

Example Applications

Scenario 1

Circumstance: Number 8 on the white team is taunting the goalkeeper on the gold team. After receiving a warning from the official the play heads back into the gold end and the action recurs. The referee stops play and gives number 8 on the White Team a red card. This is number 8 whites first red card of the season.

Outcome: Number 8 on the white team is suspended from the remainder of this game plus one more game for the first red card offense. Number 8 white will also need to serve an additional game because the Red Card was for "Verbal Abuse not involving profanity".

Summary:

8 White – 2 game suspension

1 game – Red Card Offense – First Offense

1 game - "Verbal Abuse not Involving Profanity"

Scenario 2

Circumstance: Number 8 on the white team trips over a defending player. As he is getting up he turns to the defender and calls him a "F***ing Idiot!". The official stops play and gives number 8 on the White Team a red card. This is number 8 white's first red card of the season.

Outcome: Number 8 on the white team is suspended from the remainder of this game plus one more game for the first red card offense. Number 8 white will also need to serve an additional game for "Verbal Abuse involving profanity".

Summary:

8 White – 2 game suspension

1 game – Red Card Offense – First Offense

1 game - "Verbal Abuse Involving Profanity" – First Offense

Scenario 3

Circumstance: Number 8 on the white team trips over a defending player. As he is getting up he turns to the defender and calls him a “F***ing Idiot!” and pushes the defender causing him to lose his balance, but not fall. The altercation ends there. The official stops play and gives number 8 on the White Team a red card. This is number 8 white’s first red card of the season.

Outcome: Number 8 on the white team is suspended from the remainder of this game plus one more game for the first red card offense. Number 8 white will also need to serve an additional game for "Verbal Abuse involving profanity", an additional game for “Initiating a Minor Physical Incident” and additional game for “Participating in a Minor Physical Incident”.

Summary:

- 8 White – 4 game suspension
 - 1 game – Red Card Offense – First Offense
 - 1 games - “Verbal Abuse Involving Profanity” – First Offense
 - 1 game - “Initiating a Minor Physical Incident” – First Offense
 - 1 game - “Participating in a Minor Physical Incident” – First Offense

Scenario 4

Circumstance: Number 8 on the white team trips over a defending player. As he is getting up he turns to the defender and calls him a “F***ing Idiot!” and throws a punch at him. The official stops play and gives number 8 on the White Team a red card. This is number 8 white’s first red card of the season.

Outcome: Number 8 on the white team is suspended from the remainder of this game plus one more game for the first red card offense. Number 8 white will also need to serve an additional game for "Verbal Abuse involving profanity", an additional two games for “Initiating a Major Physical Incident” and additional five games for “Participating in a Major Physical Incident”.

Summary:

- 8 White – 9 game suspension
 - 1 game – Red Card Offense – First Offense
 - 1 games - “Verbal Abuse Involving Profanity” – First Offense
 - 2 games - “Initiating a Major Physical Incident” – First Offense
 - 5 games - “Participating in a Major Physical Incident” – First Offense

Scenario 5

Circumstance: Number 8 on the white team trips over a defending player. As

he is getting up he turns to the defender and throws a punch at him. Number 6 from the green team steps in and restrains number 8 white to stop the fight. The official stops play and gives number 8 on the White Team a red card and number 6 on the green team a red card. This is both players first red card of the season. **Outcome:** Number 8 on the white team is suspended from the remainder of this game plus one more game for the first red card offense. Number 8 white will also need to serve an additional two games for “Initiating a Major Physical Incident” and additional five games for “Participating in a Major Physical Incident”. Number 6 green is suspended from the remainder of this game plus one more game for the first red card offense, plus a subsequent game for “Participating as a Peacemaker”

Summary:

8 White – 8 game suspension

1 game – Red Card Offense – First Offense

2 games - “Initiating a Major Physical Incident” – First Offense

5 games - “Participating in a Major Physical Incident” – First Offense

6 Green – 2 game suspension

1 game – Red Card Offense – First Offense

1 game - “Participating as a Peacemaker” – First Offense

Appendix: Discipline Process Flowchart

