



Derogatory Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

If a player or coach reports being subject to derogatory language or discriminatory actions, which is heard or seen by the referee crew, the incident will be addressed according to the IFAB Laws of the game.

If a member of the referee team did not hear or witness directly, the Center Referee will implement the following steps:

- Stop the game, if necessary.
- Send both teams to their respective technical areas.
- Gather the referee team.
- Bring both coaches together.
- Explain the situation to the best of your ability and understanding.
- Direct the coaches to resolve the issue immediately. If the coaches are uncooperative, or a resolution cannot be initiated or reached in a reasonable amount of time (resolution not to exceed 5 minutes), the referee will abandon the game immediately.



Effective March 1, 2025, US Soccer has introduced updates applying to misconduct towards officials from registered participants. Mass Youth Soccer's Board of Directors has also approved a Spectator Misconduct Towards Referees Policy, which extends the same minimum penalties in US Soccer Policy 531-9 to spectators at all Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned events. Scan below for more info.

Respect the Call Webpage

