

Complaints, Protests and Discipline System Procedures

Complaints

Any parent or coach has the right to file a complaint against a parent, ref or coach. Forms can be found on www.ljsoccer.org . The LJSC Board highly recommends that individuals should first work through their coaches to resolve any complaints regarding your team. If you are unable to resolve the issue through you coach then the

The Progressive Discipline System

The penalty point system described in this section is an effort to discourage violent play and misconduct during each playing season, and continuing into BYSA and STYSA sanctioned tournament play.

Penalty Points Awarded: Penalty points are awarded to individual players, coaches, assistant coaches and teams as follows for cautions and ejections.

- (a) Recorded Cautions (yellow card): 3 points per caution to the individual and to the team on which the individual plays or coaches.
- (b) Recorded ejections (by red card): 9 points per ejection to the individual and to the team on which the individual plays or coaches.
- (c) Threatened, attempted or actual physical violence against a referee by a player, coach or assistant coach, or a coach or assistant coach knowingly falsifies any team record or official BYSA, STYSA or USYSA document or who knowingly plays an ineligible player: 21 points to the individual.
- (d) Physical contact with the referee by a fan: 9 points to the coach and 3 points to the team which the person coaches, even if the coach is not ejected.
- (e) Maximum accumulation for an individual in any one game: 9 points with the exception of physical contact with the referee. Example: a player receives a caution, then is ejected. The player and the team receive 9 penalty points and not twelve (12) points.
- (f) A coach and/or an assistant coach can be cautioned or ejected and thereby awarded penalty points for misconduct of fans.
- (g) BYSA Scorekeeper shall maintain current records of individual and team penalty points.

Disciplinary Action for Penalty Point Accumulation: An accumulation of cautions, ejections and penalty points shall result in the following disciplinary actions:

Coaches, assistant coaches and players: An individual player, coach or assistant coach shall be suspended as follows: Nine (9) points = suspension for the next game. Eighteen

(18) points = suspension for the next two (2) additional games. Twenty-one (21) points = automatic and indefinite suspension.

Teams: A LJSC team shall be automatically and indefinitely suspended pending Discipline and Protest Committee review if it obtains penalty points which total three times the number of scheduled season games, i.e. an average of one yellow card per season game. The appropriate LJSC Commissioner shall determine the number of season games that shall be utilized to determine what is necessary for warning or suspension. "Season games" shall mean games that are scheduled at the beginning of any playing season, Fall or Spring, and shall not include any tournament games.

Procedure:

(a) A written warning shall be issued by the LJSC Vice President to any player, coach, assistant coach or team when the individual or team has accumulated two-thirds (2/3) of the points necessary for indefinite suspension.

(b) Members of LJSC may not revoke cautions, ejections nor penalty points.

(c) "Suspension" for point accumulation of nine (9) or eighteen (18) penalty points shall mean:

(1) A coach or assistant coach shall not attend nor shall he observe the next game or next two (2) games; and

(2) A player may attend the next game or next two (2) games; however, the player shall not dress in uniform, nor shall the player play or participate in such game(s).

(d) "Automatic and indefinite suspension" shall mean that a player, coach, assistant coach or team shall not participate in any LJSC, BYSA, STYSA or USYSA sanctioned and approved activity, tournament or inter-association game and the club shall confiscate all player I.D. cards of the team members or player(s).

(e) LJSC shall track all penalty points. The LJSC Vice President shall be responsible for enforcement during the regular playing year. If a player is suspended due to penalty point accumulation, notification shall be given to the LJSC Division Director.

(f) Team penalty point accumulation during a season shall not be carried into BYSA and STYSA tournament play; however, individual point accumulation shall be continued into BYSA or STYSA tournament play.

What Can Be Protested:

The judgment of a referee cannot be protested and shall be considered final; however, player eligibility and misinterpretation or misapplication of the Rules of Play may be protested. A protest based on the alleged ineligibility of a player may be made at any time.

Procedure:

(a) No protests will be allowed unless they are made known to the referee and opposing coach immediately after the game.

(b) The referee and opposing coach must be advised at this time as to the reason for the protest.

(c) Protests must be noted on both team's game cards and a referee's report containing a complete description of the situation protested shall be submitted to the LJSC President or Vice-President. The LJSC President shall appoint 2 LJSC members to the D & P Committee, the Vice-President shall be the Chairman of the D & P Committee.

(d) Protests must be in writing, accompanied by a non-refundable \$ 25.00 protest fee payable to LJSC and at a minimum must contain the following information:

(1) The date of the occurrence protested;

(2) A list of all parties involved, their addresses and telephone numbers and organizational affiliation;

(3) A short, plain statement of the matter protested, setting forth the rule which is alleged to have been violated;

(4) A list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of witnesses to the incident forming the basis of the protest;

(5) What action the protesting party requests of the D & P Committee; and

(6) The protest shall be signed by the party preparing the protest, his/her address and telephone numbers.

(e) The organization or person against whom the protest is lodged may within three (3) days of receipt of the protest file a response, which shall:

(1) Admit or deny each of the allegations in the protest or state why each cannot be admitted or denied;

(2) If a statement is denied, then a short statement of what the respondent feels is correct;

(3) List by name, address and telephone number any witnesses to the incident forming the basis of the protest;

(4) What action the respondent requests of the D & P Committee; and

(5) The response shall be signed by the party preparing the response, his/her address and telephone numbers.

Appeals: A decision of the Discipline and Protest Committee may be appealed to the LJSC Board of Directors. This appeal shall be ruled on in a timely manner. All appeal documentation shall be provided to the LJSC President. The non-refundable fee for an appeal to the Board shall be \$ 50.00.