

January 2023

These reports have been redacted, condensed, and edited for clarity and to protect the identity of the officials, players, coaches, and teams involved in them. This document is to simply demonstrate to the soccer community types of behavior being reported by officials on fields in Minnesota.

DATE OF CONTEST: 1/14/2023, 4:30 PM

AGE/GENDER: U16 Boys

INCIDENT TYPE(S): Player Misconduct

NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF REPORTED PERSON(S): [REDACTED]

MATCH REPORT: In the 82 minute [REDACTED] sized the [REDACTED] defender up for a challenge and made contact right after the ball was gone. During the contact his shoulder stuck the defender in the head. This was serious foul play, endangering the safety of an opponent.

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DATE OF CONTEST: 1/21/2023, 4:40 PM

AGE/GENDER: U16 Boys

INCIDENT TYPE(S): Coach & Spectator Misconduct

NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF REPORTED PERSON(S): [REDACTED] coach [REDACTED]

MATCH REPORT: Near the end of the game, with the score 0-0, I called a hand ball against [REDACTED] in their penalty area. While the kick-taker was in his run-up, one of his teammates entered the penalty area (prior to the kick). The ball crossed the goal line and I waved it off because of the infraction. Since the ball crossed the goal line but no goal was scored, I awarded a goal kick to [REDACTED] (and have since realized that the correct restart would have been to award a retake of the kick to [REDACTED]).

Regardless, the [REDACTED] players and coach were livid, which led to their spectators/fans becoming quite vocal. I explained to the player who took the kick that his teammate encroached into the penalty area, and that my interpretation of the rules meant that it was now a goal kick for [REDACTED]. My answer was not well-received. The [REDACTED] coach continued to yell from the sidelines, and came at least 5-10 yards out onto the field, demanding an explanation. From my position near the middle of the field, I explained that their player committed an infraction, and we were restarting with a goal kick. He continued yelling, challenging me to give him a card. I promptly gave him a yellow for dissent. He returned to his technical area but continued to be unhappy. He started engaging with my AR1, asking for an explanation. My AR told him that he could flag me over and that he would likely get another card. Their players started making fun of my AR, saying that he didn't have an answer.

At the conclusion of the game, which [REDACTED] still ended up winning, as we were gathering our things the taker of the PK came over to me, forcefully asking me to explain my decision to not allow a re-kick. I had already issued this player two verbal warnings for dissent during the game. I told him to go back to his team, that his teammate infringed, and that further "discussion" would result in a red card and his being suspended from the next game. His teammates restrained him, pulling him back to the group.

As we continued to pack up, two of the [REDACTED] spectators came over to challenge my decision. One was waving his phone in my face, telling me that the rules said it would be a re-kick. I thanked him and let him know that I would be reviewing the laws when I got home. The other, who appeared to be the father of the kick taker, demanded an explanation for no re-kick and questioned why I "threatened his boy" with suspension from their next game. At this point, their demeanor continued to be quite aggressive. I told them several times they needed to leave and pointed towards the door. They then began swearing at me, saying they didn't want to leave. I let them know that I would be calling the police if necessary. They finally, slowly, walked back across the field to leave.

My ARs and I hung around midfield on the players' side to allow fans & players to leave the building. When we left, many were still in the lobby, but we walked through without incident.

I realize I should have enlisted the [REDACTED] coach to deal with their spectators and have learned several key takeaways from this incident. I did discuss the incident with a ref mentor after I returned home.