

June 26-July 2, 2022

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.

Contest Date/Time: 6/25/2022, 12:45 pm
Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct
Age of Teams: U13
Gender of Teams: Girls/Women
Description of Reported Person: male adult (coach knows who the adult is)

Report: 21st minute player from [REDACTED] was fouled. Foul was called and player stayed on ground for a short time. Player was not injured and stayed in the game. At the time of the foul a female spectator yelled that I needed to "make that call." I turned and started to walk towards the spectators. A male adult was standing on the touchline and verbally agreed with the female and yelled at me how incompetent I was as a referee. A tournament staff person was near by and I asked him to come over so the tournament could be informed of the adult's removal. The male adult said I could give him the stink eye all I want. I said that I just wanted to make sure he did not try to sneak away because he was officially being removed. The female adult said it was OK the male was the dad of the fouled player. The coach arrived and removed the male adult. I could not ID the female adult for removal. The male adult left without further incident.

Contest Date/Time: 6/26/2022, 2:20 PM
Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct
Age of Teams: U17
Gender of Teams: Boys/Men
Person Reported: [REDACTED]

Report: [REDACTED] Player [REDACTED] had been repeatedly asking for fouls to be called since the 2nd minute of the game. Several of those early instances there was no foul, but I told him I would keep an eye out. I continued to communicate with him throughout the game to try and assure him I was watching and calling anything I saw. Late in the first half and early in the second half, I did call two opposing players for normal fouls against [REDACTED]. In the 63rd minute in front of his team coach and bench players (and several fans in the grandstand), [REDACTED] took a defensive position to an opposing player who had his back to [REDACTED] shielding the ball. Jack and the opposing player lightly bumped into one another and the opposing player kicked the ball back to a teammate about 15 yards behind him. Ball was away and [REDACTED] proceeded to wind up his leg and kick the opposing player in the back of his ankle as hard as he could. I awarded [REDACTED] a red card for Violent Conduct - Striking a player and sent him off. [REDACTED] protested, but his coach got him to leave the field and the game resumed without further incident.

Contest Date/Time: 6/26/2022, 2:00pm
Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct
Age of Teams: U11
Description of Reported Person: Several spectators

Report: In the 57th minute, [REDACTED] scored a goal. Many [REDACTED] fans and [REDACTED] Coach [REDACTED] disagreed. [REDACTED] won the ball and quickly transitioned into an attack. The scoring player had a shot from just outside the penalty area. The ball deflected off the crossbar, entirely crossed the goal line, and bounced into the field of play. AR1 was correctly positioned at the time of the shot just off the goal line along the touchline. After the shot deflected off the crossbar, I could not tell if it was a goal. I made eye contact with AR1, holding her flag directly vertical to signify the ball went into touch (goal). After making eye contact, AR1 signaled for a goal by sprinting up the touchline. I blew my whistle and signaled for a goal.

Many [REDACTED] spectators expressed loud disagreement with the call. Coach [REDACTED], standing in his technical area (about 40 yards away), verbally disagreed loudly with the decision and made several negative comments directed toward AR1 and me. I walked over to Coach [REDACTED] and reminded him of his conduct. I asked him multiple times to speak with his parents regarding their conduct.

After the match, I walked over to where my bag was located on the east side of the field (center line). The parking lot where I was parked was on the west side of the field - needing to pass where the spectators were positioned. I rode with AR1, and we decided to wait five minutes before going to our car. This would let the crowds disperse.

AR1 and I then walked to the parking lot - walking to leave where NSSA fans were seated. We walked in a manner to avoid eye contact with anyone. We did not say anything to anyone while walking to the parking lot/car. As we walked past a few [REDACTED] parents who remained on the touchline, one [REDACTED] parent repeatedly yelled, "You are fucking horrible." Another dad was being blocked by his wife, so he could not approach us. He shouted, "I just want to tell the referee he is a joke."

Contest Date/Time: 6/28/2022, 7:30 p.m.
Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct
Age of Teams: U14
Gender of Teams: Boys/Men
Description of Reported Person: Female spectator believed to be the mother of [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Away Team).

Report: In the 61st minute of the match [REDACTED] Away ([REDACTED]) was issued a caution for recklessly charging an opponent in possession of the ball. In response, the identified spectator directed vulgar language ('fu**' and 'sh**') in an aggressive manner at opposing team spectators and at the center referee. The identified spectator was instructed to leave and she initially refused. However, after being told that she must leave immediately or the match would be terminated. She attempted to have [REDACTED] Away leave with her and he refused, referred to the identified spectator as "mom." She eventually entered her vehicle after a three-minute delay and the match proceeded.

Contest Date/Time: 6/28/2022, 5:45pm
Incident Type(s): Coach Misconduct
Age of Teams: U14
Gender of Teams: Girls/Women
Person Reported: [REDACTED] (AC)

Report: AR: At the end of the game, [REDACTED] Coach approached the 3 referees to complain about the [REDACTED] coach's unsportsmanlike conduct during the game. She was very concerned that the coach referred to her players as "U8 defense" and ridiculed them for most of the game. We assured her we will mention it in the report. I, [REDACTED], (AR1) assured her that I mentioned it to the coach at halftime, and for the most part, he refrained from using that expression after that.

CR: The [REDACTED] coach shouted and yelled on and off during the 1st half of the game. During the break, we, the referees talked to the [REDACTED] coach that it was unsporting behavior to do so. At the end of the game, the executive director of [REDACTED] came to the referee crew and elaborated on her concerns. "She thought the yelling might impact the call from me and it is not classy." Next time, if something similar happens I will talk to the coach confidently and right away. I do not appreciate such behavior.

Contest Date/Time: 6/29/2022, 6:30
Incident Type(s): Coach Misconduct
Age of Teams: U12
Gender of Teams: Boys/Men
Person Reported: [REDACTED]

Report: With 2 minutes remaining in the game coach [REDACTED] publicly dissented my hand ball call against a [REDACTED] player. I politely asked the coach multiple times to stop the dissent but he did not stop. At that point I asked the coach to leave the bench area. When he refused I told the head coach the game will not continue until coach [REDACTED] left the bench area. Upon hearing this coach [REDACTED] left the field and the game continued to its conclusion.

Contest Date/Time: 6/30/2022, 6:30pm
Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct
Age of Teams: Adult
Gender of Teams: Boys/Men
Person Reported: [REDACTED]

Report: In the 63rd minute near the center circle, [REDACTED] was shielding the ball from an opponent who was challenging him. [REDACTED] swing his arm back and struck his opponent in the face with an open hand. I sent him off for violent conduct. He left the field without incident. We restarted with a free kick for [REDACTED].

Contest Date/Time: 6/30/2022, 5:30 PM

Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct, Injury

Age of Teams: U15

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Report: [REDACTED] took a hard shot to the chin from a ball shot from within 10 yards. He went in concussion protocol.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got into a pushing match with some minor words exchanged after a pushing foul was call on [REDACTED]. Both were issues yellow cards for Unsporting Behavior.

Contest Date/Time: 6/30/2022, 7pm

Incident Type(s): Coach Misconduct, Spectator Misconduct

Age of Teams: U17

Gender of Teams: Girls/Women

Person Reported: Coach [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Spectator

Report: In the second half with just under 19 minutes remaining, [REDACTED] was leading 2-1. I awarded a direct free kick to [REDACTED] near the spectator sideline in the attacking half of the field. As teams set up for the incoming kick, a fan was screaming at me "Give her 10! Give her 10! they're not back far enough! Give her 10!" At this point, there had been some audible comments about my calls but nothing directly at me until this point. I blew my whistle and walked over to the [REDACTED] bench and addressed coach [REDACTED]. I said, "Coach, I the fan in blue with the blue hat is trying to tell how to officiate the game. I don't appreciate it and would like him to leave the field. You are responsible for your fans actions and it is your job to walk over and tell him to leave. [REDACTED] responded, "Okay, I will text someone."

Me: "That won't do coach. I want him gone now. Please walk over there and tell him to walk down to the parking lot."

[REDACTED]: "Well I'm not going to. We didn't drive 3 hours just to kick a fan off the field."

Me: "Then at this time I am suspending the match. Either you walk over and he leaves, or we are done here."

[REDACTED]: "I'm an adult and that's a demand. You can't tell me to do that. I'm not doing it."

Me: "I'm and adult, too. I'm also the official and I have the authority to tell you to control your fans. If you won't do that, I'm ending this game."

[REDACTED]: "You can't do that! Go talk with your AR!"

We walk over to the half line and [REDACTED] joined the conversation.

[REDACTED]: "You can't tell me to walk over and tell a fan to leave, I'm an adult!"

[REDACTED]: "As the officials, yes we can tell you to."

[REDACTED]: "I haven't said a single word to you. I'm an adult, you can't tell me what to do!"

Me: "Coach, I'm giving you 30 seconds. Either walk over and tell him to leave or I'm ending the match."

[REDACTED]: "I'm not going over there!"

Me: "Alright. ***Blows whistle to end game***"

[REDACTED]: "I'm an adult. You can't tell me what to do. I didn't yell at you at all game. No wonder you're short refs!"

Me: "Coach, I appreciate you not arguing our calls, But your fans were commenting and this guy crossed the line by trying to tell me how to do my job."

██████: "I'm an adult! you can't do this to me!"

██████: "As the officials yes we can."

Me: "We are the authority figures on this field. If you have a problem with that, talk to the league."

██████ walked away and talked with his team. ██████ and I packed up our stuff and walked to the lot together. Comments were made by ██████ fans as we walked by but were ignored while the ██████ fans thanked us for doing such a good job with only two officials.

Contest Date/Time: 6/30/2022, 7:10

Incident Type(s): Coach Misconduct, Spectator Misconduct

Age of Teams: U12

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: ██████, ██████ spectators

Report: At the start of the game I check in the teams and realize that it will just be me and AR1 to start. (AR2 was going to be late because they were at a different game.) I then get a club line from the home team and tell both coaches about the situation. The game starts and goes pretty smoothly for the first 5 minutes until the ██████ team gets a nice through ball chance at the goal. The goalie saves it but the parents for ██████ are starting to yell about how it was offside. From this point on I call 2-3 offside calls on ██████ and there is 1 more close offside call where the parents for ██████ were not too bad.

Approximately 15 minutes into the game I see that ██████ is going to have another close through ball so I run to get in line with the second to last defender. At this time ██████ makes a perfectly timed through ball and scores on it. At this point the parents go crazy. I made it very clear to them that the player was onside when the ball was passed. Looking back I should have just told the coach to go over there right then and there, but I decided to let it go. The next play was almost the same thing where the player was obviously onside but the parents did not think so. The ball goes out for corner and I blow my whistle and go tell the ██████ coach (██████) to go tell his parents to stop yelling about offside. He then says "And why should I do that" and I say "Because they are being very disrespectful" He then says "And what if I don't?" I reply with "then you will be ejected." He then walks over and seems to tell his parents to stop talking. When he passes me on his way back he says, "I did my job, now you should do yours."

In retrospect I should have definitely given him a yellow or red for this, but I didn't. After this I continued play and had no further issues for the rest of game. This was my first time dealing with poor parents and coaches. I have learned that you have to stop the behavior right away before it gets bad.

Contest Date/Time: 6/29/2022, 8:00 pm

Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct

Age of Teams: U13

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Description of Reported Person: [REDACTED] parent(s)

Report: The duration of the match was mostly one sided, with [REDACTED] in control. Throughout the match, [REDACTED] was continually fouling [REDACTED], with [REDACTED] committing slim to none fouls. Beginning at approximately my 3rd foul call (yes there were a lot) the [REDACTED] parent described above began complaining. It was mostly head shakes, hand raises, sighing, and minor remakes such as "Come on!" I proceeded through halftime and consulted with my AR2 to be sure the comments weren't distracting him, which he stated was not an issue.

With approximately 5 minutes remaining in the second half, her comments began to grow out of control. All throw ins were questioned and the lightest tap on her team angered her. I finally blew the whistle for one final foul and she screamed "Oh my God ref! Come on. You've got to be f*ing kidding me." At the point, I halted the game and approached the [REDACTED] coach first stated the issue at hand, pointed out the culprit and asked him to go talk to all parents. I also asked the [REDACTED] coach to go talk to parents in order to avoid conflict of interest ([REDACTED] parents made no comments). They approached the parents together and spoke as one. The coaches and parents cooperated, and the game continued without further incident.