

June 19-25, 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: 6/19/2022, 9:35
Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct
Age of Teams: U17
Gender of Teams: Boys/Men
Person Reported: [REDACTED]

Report: In the 52" with the score 2-2, there was an aerial challenge in the 18. [REDACTED] was on the attack. [REDACTED] went up diagonally on the challenge. He came down on top of a [REDACTED] player and landed on his back/shoulder. Play was halted to deal with the injury. This occurred in AR1 quadrant. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] shouted "What the Fuck ref?" The center did not hear this as she was tending to the injury. I informed the center that [REDACTED] needed to be ejected for foul and abusive language.

Contest Date/Time: 6/21/2022, 7:30
Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct
Age of Teams: U17
Gender of Teams: Girls/Women
Description of Reported Person: Parent of player [REDACTED] for Visiting team

Report: In the 52nd minute, the parent of player [REDACTED] for the visiting team saw that his daughter was hurt and walked across the field. As the center referee, I told the parent that he had to walk around the field and could not walk across the field to look after his daughter. He said he had an ACL injury and could not walk that far.

I spoke to the coaches who told me they would deal with the situation and let him know this was not allowed.

He walked back to his seat around the field. However, in the process, he told the AR that "please tell your buddy in the center after the game that we are going to have a discussion". During the water break, I was informed of the situation, went to the coach of the visiting team, and had them remove the parent. At the conclusion of the game, we had the coach walk us to the cars, and the parent wanted to talk but I continued to my car.

Contest Date/Time: 6/21/2022, 8:00 pm
Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct
Age of Teams: U18
Gender of Teams: Girls/Women
Person Reported: Home [REDACTED]

Report: In the 88th minute, I issued a YELLOW CARD to [REDACTED] for Persistent Infringement. A few seconds after showing her this

card, a second YELLOW CARD was issued to her for DISSENT. I issued her a RED CARD and she exited the field.

Contest Date/Time: 6/21/2022, 6:00 P.M.

Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct

Age of Teams: U16

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Report: In the 51st minute of the game. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Soccer Club was shown a red card and sent off after saying "fucking faggot" at the ground after missing a shot. The player left the pitch in a timely manner.

In the 67th Minute of the Match, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Soccer club was shown a red card and sent off after using his hands to stop a ball that would have resulted in a goal. The player left in a timely manner.

Contest Date/Time: 6/19/2022, 5:30 pm

Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct

Age of Teams: U13

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Description of Reported Person: A group of approximately 10 adult spectators supporting the [REDACTED] U-13 Boys

Report: This was an exciting and closely contested championship game between two evenly-matched teams. During the first half of the match, both sets of supporters were vocally supporting their teams. There were various complaints about referee decisions (direction of throw ins, foul/no foul, etc.) by some of the [REDACTED] fans, but not yet to the point where I felt I needed to have the coaches go speak to the fans. I just figured it was a very competitive championship game at the end of an extremely hot day and so spirits would be high. However, I did speak with AR2 at half-time and said I would monitor the situation, and I'd take action if there was any escalation. I told him to alert me immediately if anything negative was said to him and I did not hear it.

The score at half-time was 0-0.

When the [REDACTED] team scored the game's opening goal in the 2nd half, things got ugly. The [REDACTED] coach insisted very loudly that the goal should not have been allowed as there was a [REDACTED] player sitting on the ground at midfield holding his head. I did not view any incident in the build up to the goal that led to this injury. My attention was on following play upfield and the crowd noise was such that I couldn't hear the coach if he was shouting out before the goal was scored (which he said he was). Before re-starting play, I consulted with both ARs. Neither had a good view of the collision that resulted in the apparent head injury, and neither had sought to get my attention to stop the game. Based on this, and even if there had been an incident that we refs had all missed, I decided that allowing the goal to stand was the correct decision. (The player in question soon returned to the game and took part right through overtime.)

I explained the decision to the coach and he listened without further comment. However, after this moment in the game, the behavior of a group of the [REDACTED] spectators escalated into almost constant shouting and comments about any and, it seemed, all my calls.

At that point I was very close to halting the game to have the coach(es) speak to the spectators. In retrospect, I should have done so. However, I erred on the side of wanting the players to get to play as many of the remaining minutes as possible, and to complete the game.

A few minutes after the opening goal, a classic "goal mouth scramble" in the [REDACTED] goal area occurred, as [REDACTED] attempted to equalize. Approximately 8-10 players were in a crowd competing for the ball right in front of goal. I positioned myself within about 8 yards of the situation and watched closely for any foul or other incident (e.g., injury) that would require me to blow my whistle to stop play. I did not see anything of that ilk - just a group of boys all doing their very best to kick the ball into the goal or else prevent the ball from entering the goal. When [REDACTED] finally cleared the ball outside the penalty area, one [REDACTED] player remained lying on the ground and appeared injured. I immediately blew my whistle to stop play.

At this moment the behavior of the [REDACTED] spectators deteriorated even further. There was a general cacophony of screaming and shouting aimed at me, both in English and in what I presume was Spanish. (I do not speak Spanish.) In English, I was accused of such things as not caring about player safety, missing/ignoring fouls, or not calling any fouls at all (despite the fact I had called at least 10-12 fouls in the first half and plenty more in the second), not awarding a PK, and that I had lost control of the game.

An adult male walked up behind the goal, stared at me in what felt to be a threatening way and screamed something in (I presume) Spanish. (There were spectators sitting in the shade of trees a good distance behind the goal which is typical for that particular field. I have never seen them be asked to move away as it is a reasonable distance from the field itself.)

As I went to consult with AR2 to check if he had seen any foul occur or how the player was injured, a female spectator ran onto the field near me to go to the injured player (I presume she was the injured player's parent or guardian). As she did so, she shouted at me very loudly about ignoring player safety and that I had not called a single foul all game (sic). I informed her she needed to leave the field but she ignored me.

By this time, the tournament's referee assignor, [REDACTED]s, along with a field marshal, had arrived at the field. During the injury stoppage we discussed the overall situation. [REDACTED] had observed the spectators' behavior and agreed it was completely unacceptable. We talked about the goal mouth incident and [REDACTED] agreed that I was positioned correctly to observe the goal-area. [REDACTED] ensured that the female who had run on to the field and the male who approached from behind the goal left the area. [REDACTED] also informed me that he and a field marshal would remain at the field to monitor the spectators and help deal with any further incidents. I am thankful they did so, as otherwise I would have had to abandon the game and the players would not have had the opportunity to complete it.

[REDACTED] eventually equalized and the game went to OT and Kicks from the Mark. There were no further overt incidents. After the game, I collected the

coaches' signatures and handed the game card in. I was escorted off the field via golf cart. While there were no post-game comments that I heard, this was only the 2nd time in nearly 20 years of ref'ing that I found myself "looking over my shoulder" as I walked to my vehicle.

Contest Date/Time: 6/22/2022, 7:00 P.M.

Incident Type(s): Spectator Misconduct

Age of Teams: U9

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Description of Reported Person: Individual identifying himself as a [REDACTED] board member

Report: The score was tied 2-2 at halftime, [REDACTED] had one player ([REDACTED]) who was all over the field, by far the best player on the team. A parent from [REDACTED] approached me. I asked who he was and he introduced himself as a [REDACTED] Board Member. I told him he didn't have the authority to be over on the bench sideline. He was polite and explained that he thought [REDACTED] wasn't a registered player. I pulled out the rosters and looked and didn't see [REDACTED] on the roster.

I was going to address it with the [REDACTED] coach after he was done talking with his team. During this time I was thinking, I knew I had checked everyone in without incident. I then realized I had looked at the roster from the game before (10U). I grabbed the correct roster and walked to the other side and told the parent he is on the roster and legal to play. He then wanted to see the roster to verify for himself.

At that time I reiterated to him that it was inappropriate for him to approach the referee and with other officials, he may be asked to leave. After the game I did mention to the [REDACTED] coach what had happened and asked him to make sure parents aren't interacting with officials. My guess is most of the parents hadn't realized the interaction as the conversation was short and not heated but wanted to let you know in case this becomes a pattern or if other officials have problems with the parents from this club.

Contest Date/Time: 6/22/2022, 6:00

Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct

Age of Teams: U13

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: [REDACTED]

Report: Player [REDACTED] received the ball and began a breakaway attack, before a second player challenged him and tripped, remaining on the ground. Play was stopped for the injury (the player was able to continue without a substitution or trainer). At this point, Player [REDACTED] began cursing at opponents nearby, saying the word "f - - k" in his comments. He was sent off for the offensive and abusive language

Contest Date/Time: 6/23/2022, 800 pm

Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct

Age of Teams: U17

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Report: In the 89th minute of the game, foul was committed about 25 yards from [REDACTED] goal. While [REDACTED] set up free kick, the attacking player asked for distance.

While I was creating the necessary space, [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED] team began to tell the attacker taking the free kick that he needed a haircut. I told him to stop and he persisted and a yellow card (UB) was issued.

The attacking player proceeded with the free kick, after a short scramble the ball sailed out and I blew the final whistle to end the match. While the teams were clearing the field, [REDACTED] approached the [REDACTED] player who he was talking to prior (regarding haircuts) and again told him he needed a haircut. The [REDACTED] player told him to stop, [REDACTED] continued to tell him he really needed a haircut. A second caution was then given to [REDACTED] and then a red card.

This ended the behavior.

Contest Date/Time: 6/25/2022, 4:00

Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct

Age of Teams: U16

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: [REDACTED]

Report: [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] team during the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] received two cautions and was dismissed from the contest. He received a yellow card for delaying the restart of play. Then received a yellow card later in the match for unsporting behavior. He was shown yellow then a red card and ejected from the game. Coach was notified and given an explanation without incident.

Contest Date/Time: 6/25/2022, 7:30 PM

Incident Type(s): Player Misconduct, Spectator Misconduct

Age of Teams: U18

Gender of Teams: Boys/Men

Person Reported: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], parent from [REDACTED] team

Report: I am writing this report as a spectator for this match. Only two officials were present for the start of the match. A third volunteer worked as an AR in street clothes in the 2nd half.

18th minute: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was involved in a challenge in front of the AR. He won the ball then lost it. He chased the play up the field and then cut the opposing player's legs out from under him, a clear reckless foul, and was cautioned for UB. He yelled at the referee, who ignored his complaints.

Shortly after the score moved to 4-0 in the 55th minute, [REDACTED] came in with a very hard shoulder-to-shoulder challenge on a [REDACTED] player, knocking him over with a legal shoulder-to-shoulder challenge. The [REDACTED] player then inadvertently tripped [REDACTED] as he fell, and a foul was called on the [REDACTED] player.

Even though the foul was called in his favor, [REDACTED] got up and yelled at the referee again. This time the referee told him loudly, "ENOUGH!" [REDACTED] continued to dissent and was given his second caution and sent off. Before leaving the field, he turned to the referee and yelled, "FUCK YOU!"

At this point one of the [REDACTED] parents yelled at the referee, "You need to be an adult!" He ordered the parent to leave for irresponsible behavior.

Shortly after this incident, the ball went out for a goal kick for the [REDACTED] team. As the [REDACTED] GK chased the ball down, the [REDACTED] GK, [REDACTED], yelled, "Today!" across the field at him. Mind you, it's 4-0 for [REDACTED] with about 20 minutes left in a match where the ball has spent 70% of the time in the [REDACTED] defending half. Time wasting is not an issue, and trying to make it into an issue shows a real lack of awareness for the game situation.

One of the [REDACTED] players on the bench inappropriately responded, "Tomorrow!" Mr. [REDACTED] turned to the [REDACTED] bench and yelled, "GO FUCK YOURSELF!" I do not believe the referee heard this exchange.

One of the [REDACTED] parents (perhaps [REDACTED]'s father) came down and started calling out to him to calm him down. [REDACTED] yelled that he was "fucking sick and tired of how this game was being called." The parent responded, "I agree, but you can't do anything about it."

A few minutes later, [REDACTED] mishit a clearance to a [REDACTED] player, who chipped him from 30 yards to make it 5-0. [REDACTED] responded by tearing off his gloves and screaming, "THAT'S IT! I'M FUCKING DONE WITH THIS BULLSHIT!" He then stormed off the field on the spectator side, past me. The same parent came over to talk to him on the field behind us. As [REDACTED] had no subs and [REDACTED] had been sent off, the team was now down to 9 players. A field player took over in goal and played there for about 10 minutes, until the parent managed to apparently talk some sense into [REDACTED] and he returned to the game.