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# Spring 2025 Travel Director Meeting



Essex County Youth Soccer Association

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# Agenda

- Welcome
- Spring Season Reminders
- Sportsmanship Statement
- 531-9
- Derogatory Language Policy
- Reschedule Procedure
- Questions/Comments

# Important Dates 2025

**Coaches Meetings: April 2nd and 3rd**

**Opening Day: April 12th and 13th**

**Close of Season: June 7th and 8th**

**G4 Jamboree: June 14th**

**Playoffs: June 15th-22nd**

**MTOC: June 27th- 29th**



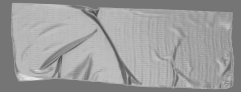
## — Sportsmanship Statement Procedure

After all pre-game activities are complete, both teams and the referee crew will line up at the Half Way Line of the Coaches Sideline.

Led by officials, all players and coaches will walk across the field and line up facing spectators, 5 yards from the sideline.

The Sportsmanship Statement will be read by a representative of the Home team to all coaches, players and spectators.

Following the reading of the script, players will perform a pre-game handshake. (Home team to walk down the line of Away Team). After the pre-game handshake, all players and coaches will return to benches and starting players will assume positions on the field of play.



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# Sportsmanship Statement

Mass Youth Soccer and LEAGUE / EVENT NAME share a mission to provide a safe, fun and inclusive soccer experience for all participants

All participants deserve the right to play in an environment free from hostile and distracting behavior. Please do your part to create a positive soccer experience for all.

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated, and sanctions may be applied for violations of policy or codes of conduct.

It is the referee's discretion to terminate the game if any threatening or discriminatory statements are made or for anyone entering the field of play without permission.

# RESPECT THE CALL



531-9



# PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

## NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

## PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(\* Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

## KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **“minor multiplier” resulting in triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.



# Examples

Implementation of new 531-9 Sanctions - What is gross misconduct?

Examples from last couple of seasons: Do we have a common understanding of how we might adjudicate the following offenses?

- Coach Drops F-Bomb multiple times while complaining about referee calls. - **Yellow Zone - 2 games - minor multiplier = 6 games**
- Coach receives a Red Card for continued complaining. Simple Red Card - 1 game suspension.
- Coach receives no card but is reported to have said things like “are you blind” “watch the game” etc. - **Yellow Zone - 2 games**
- Coach is heard putting down the referee and telling their players to ignore her. **Yellow Zone - 2 games - minor multiplier - 6 games.**
- Coach refuses to leave the field once they are Red Carded for arguing with the referee and a yelling match ensues and as a result the referee leaves the field. **Red Zone - 4 games - minor multiplier - 12 games.**
- Spectator constantly yelling at the referee and insulting their ability to know the rules: **Yellow Zone - 2 games - minor multiplier = 6 games**



# Derogatory Language Policy

ECYSA adopts the Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines, as promulgated by Mass Youth Soccer.

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.

ECYSA has zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.

All incidents of discriminatory language and/or actions must be reported to Mass Youth Soccer pursuant to its rules and procedures.





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# ECYSA Rescheduling Update

March 20, 2025

Dan Daley  
ECYSA Director, Reschedules and Discipline

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# Reschedule Changes – Spring 2025

## Eligible Reschedules

- School (curricular) / Religious Exemptions
- Midweek Reschedules
- Coach Agreed Reschedules (updated from Fall 2024 pilot)
- Removal of School Vacation Reschedule \*

\* Redundant as Coach Agreed Reschedule can be used for games scheduled during school vacation

# Updates to School / Religious / Midweek Reschedules

## School / Religious / Midweek Reschedule Request Changes:

- Requesting TD to submit reschedule with new date / time (has ability to select home or away resource)
- Deadline to submit no later than the Sunday before kick-off (11:59PM)

## Process / Workflow:

- Requesting Team TD submits request with mutually agreed rescheduled date / time / resource
- ECYSA will review request and approve / deny based upon reschedule criteria
- If ECYSA Approves; submission is sent to opposing TD to approve / deny reschedule date / time only
- If Opposing TD approves, schedules updated to reflect new reschedule date
- If Opposing TD denies, request sent back to ECYSA to override date / time once teams agree to reschedule date
- If a reschedule date is not agreed upon within 7 days of ECYSA approval, ECYSA sets the date
- If ECYSA denies request, game is to be played as scheduled or seek new Coach Agreed Reschedule



# NEW: Coach Agreed Reschedule



## Coach Agreed Reschedule

- Coaches of given game agree to reschedule and determine a mutually agreed upon reschedule date / time
- **Requesting Coach's TD** to submit reschedule with new date / time (has ability to select home or away resource)
- Deadline to submit no later than the **Sunday** before kick-off (11:59PM)
- New Fee Applied to **requesting** team's town organization for reschedule
- Rescheduled game to be played even if referee is not assigned

## Process / Workflow

- **Requesting Team TD** submits reschedule with updated date / time / resource
- Opposing TD reviews request and approves / deny within 48 hours of submission
- If Opposing TD approves, sent to ECYSA to approve and schedules updated
- If Opposing TD denies, game to be played as scheduled; can be resubmitted
- Any reschedule of a reschedule will result in fee being applied again.

# NEW: Coach Agreed Reschedule Fees

Coach Agreed Reschedule Fees Equivalent to Grade Group Referee Fee

- Grade 4: \$35
- Grade 6: \$40
- Grade 8: \$55
- Grade 10: \$145
- PG: \$160

# Game Abandon / Rain Out Reschedules

## Game Abandon / Rainout

No Change: Home TD will see Game Change Request when game is rained out or referee abandons game

Teams will have 7 days to finalize a reschedule date that Home TD submits and ECYSA approves

ECYSA will set date if coaches can not agree to reschedule date within 7 days

Coach Agreed reschedule can be used for ECYSA set date; fee applied

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# Summary of Changes

- **Deadline to Submit Reschedules: from 72 hours to Sunday before game date**
- **Reschedule Date Required as part of Reschedule Request Submission: Removal of two step process of Reschedule / Game Change**
- **New Coach Agreed Reschedule: Requesting TD to Submit; Fee equivalent to referee fee applied to requesting team's town organization**
- **Games to be played regardless of referee attendance for rescheduled games of Coach Agreed Reschedules**
- **Reschedules of Reschedules allowed; could result in multiple fees for requesting team organization**





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# Open Forum

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