



Interrupting Discriminatory Acts



Discriminatory Acts

Discriminatory acts include language/behaviors that:

- Are discriminatory, derogatory, harassing, or inappropriate
- Target or are directed at race, ethnicity, gender, religion, orientation, or disability
- Are derogatory or demeaning names, phrases, or chants towards another person
- Include terms used in conversation between members of the same team
- Do not necessarily have to be directed at a specific individual

These behaviors cannot be ignored by officials

No Tolerance for Discriminatory Acts

- Discrimination of any type shall not be tolerated by AYSO
- Officials who observe or receive reports of discriminatory actions have a duty to act

Discriminatory Acts

Discriminatory acts can be:

- Player, Substitute, or Team Official - OBSERVED
- Player, Substitute, or Team Official - REPORTED
- Spectators - Observed or Reported

There are approaches to address each of these situations

Observed Discriminatory Acts = Red Card

If any referee on the officiating crew observes a discriminatory act committed by a player, substitute, or coach:

- **Stop the game**
- Enforce applicable LoTG: the offending player, coach, or bench personnel shall be sent off (red card) for using offensive, insulting, or abusive language/gestures
- Notify the coaches of both teams about the nature of the misconduct and sanction
- Allow the coaches time to speak to their players and bench personnel to remind them of AYSO's zero-tolerance stance on discriminatory behavior
- The match may briefly be suspended
- Include details of the incident on the game report

While incidental use of vulgar or profane language is a caution, language that is deemed discriminatory results in a send off.

Reported Discriminatory Acts

If discriminatory acts are reported to, but **not** observed by, an official:

- While LoTG do not allow the referee to sanction anyone for reported actions, it is important that coaches of both teams be notified immediately, regardless of affiliation of the reporting party
- The referee has the power and responsibility to stop, suspend, and restart play
- Play should not restart until the reported discriminatory act is addressed

Reported Discriminatory Acts – Procedure

If discriminatory acts are reported to, but not observed by, an official:

- At the next stoppage (if possible)
- Listen and get detailed information from the player/Coach making the accusation
- Consult with the officiating crew, who may have additional information
- If the officiating team can substantiate the accusation, then it is a RED card
- Include details of the reported incident on the game report
- If the rest of the officiating team also did not hear or see the act then ...

Reported Discriminatory Acts – Procedure

If discriminatory acts are reported to, but not observed by, any official:

- Speak with both coaches separately and explain what has happened.
- Inform coaches that if the referee team hears this behavior, players will be shown the red card, and the match could be abandoned.
- Allow the coaches time to speak to their players and bench personnel to remind them of the AYSO's zero-tolerance stance on discriminatory behavior
- The match may briefly be suspended for this conversation
- Include details of the reported incident on the game report

Discriminatory Acts from Spectators

If discriminatory acts originate from the spectators:

- Stop the game
- Work with coaches to address inappropriate spectator conduct before the game is restarted
- The match may temporarily be suspended to allow for coaches or regional/event staff to take action
- Include details of the incident on the game report
- Spectators who fail to comply with AYSO or site expectations may be expelled

The referee has no authority over spectators but always has the power to stop, suspend, restart play, or abandon the match

Discriminatory Acts Summary

Discriminatory acts can be:

- RED CARD: Player, Substitute, or Team Official - OBSERVED
- STOP PLAY: Player, Substitute, or Team Official - REPORTED
- STOP PLAY: Spectators - Observed or Reported

As Referees, you have a special responsibility to address discriminatory acts

In AYSO,
It's about more than
the game !



Thank You!!!

