

# BRINGING AWARENESS

**2019 Recertification  
April In-Service Class**



# MONTHLY IN-SERVICE AGENDA

- **Cal South Announcement**
- **Misconduct Towards Match Officials -  
Definitions**
- **How to Avoid Misconduct Towards  
Match Officials**
- **Summary**

# CAL SOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

## WEARING EYEGLASSES

- Although eyeglasses are not part of the officially accepted referee uniform/equipment and would not be worn at top competitive matches, **in Cal South competitions, the wearing of clear (un-tinted) prescription eyeglasses is allowed.**
- Dark glasses including sunglasses have the unfortunate side effect of suggesting that the match official is severely visually impaired and should not be working the game. They also limit communication between the match officials and the players by providing a barrier against eye-to-eye contact.
- Nothing should interfere with making eye contact between match officials or with players.

# MATCH OFFICIAL - DEFINITION

“Match Official” includes the following:

- *All currently registered U.S. Soccer referees, assistant referees, 4<sup>th</sup> officials or other duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.*
- *Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.*
- *Any club assistant referee.*

# MATCH OFFICIAL ASSAULT - DEFINITION

## “Referee Assault”

- *Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.*
- *“Intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result of which will invade the interest of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.*

# MATCH OFFICIAL ASSAULT - DEFINITION

**Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:**

- **Hitting and kicking**
- **Punching and choking**
- **Spitting on and grabbing or bodily running into a referee**
- **Head butting and the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury**
- **Damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.**

# MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE - DEFINITION

## Referee Abuse

- ***Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.***
- Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
  - Using foul or abusive language toward a referee
  - Spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property, or
  - Spitting at (but not on) the referee.

# WHAT TO DO

- Recognize warning points also called “flash points”.
- Be aware of mass confrontations.
- Be aware of extra persons coming into the field of play and act immediately. Stop play if necessary until the extra person is removed from the field of play.
- Follow proper procedure to show cards.
- Do not incite the player(s) with your manners, language, or actions.
- Do not act or respond with the same aggressive attitude. Do not get physical and avoid physical contact with the player(s).
- Maintain watch of all players after incidents with possible aggressive reaction towards you.
- Do not give your back to players, especially to those that were involved in a recent incident that required a disciplinary action.



# RECOGNIZING WARNING POINTS

Certain situations in games are warning points for potential problems for referees:

- One such warning point is the final five minutes in a game where a team has the lead.
- Contemporary tactics call for attacking players to hold the ball in one of the attacking corners in an attempt to waste valuable seconds and/or protect the lead.
- The longer the attacker shields/holds the ball in the corner
  - The less time the opponents have to play.
  - The greater the likelihood an opponent is going to take a shot at him to gain possession of the ball or
  - Look at the situation as an opportunity to send their own “payback” message out of frustration.

# RECOGNIZING WARNING POINTS

Other examples of warning points include:

- A defender delaying the restart by holding a ball that belongs to the other team.
- An untimely challenge on a goalkeeper near the goal.
- A foul near the teams bench area.
- Two players on the ground after a challenge.
- Retrieving the ball after a goal.
- Cautioned player committing another cautionable offense.
- Awarding a penalty kick.

# MASS CONFRONTATION DEFINITION

Mass confrontation is:

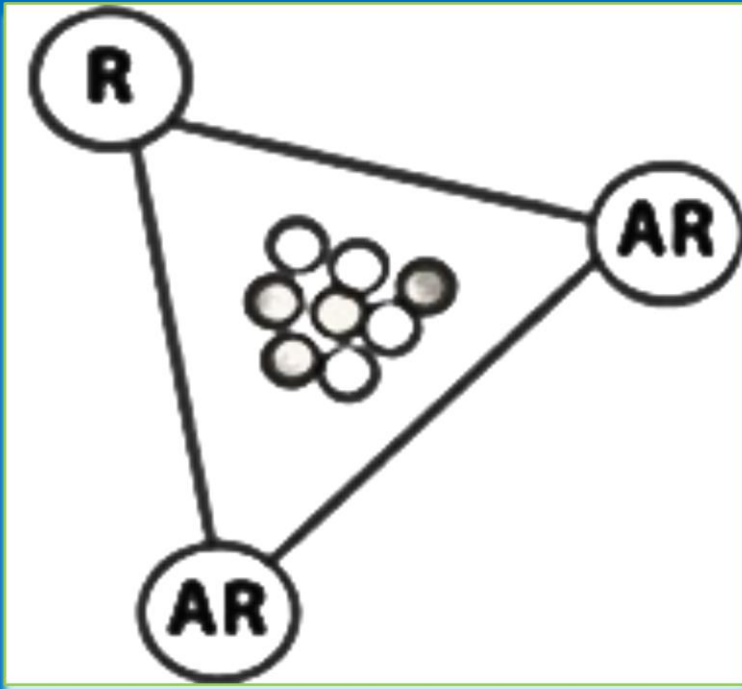
*“the concerted actions of three or more players from the same team who are disputing a decision while surrounding the referee or hindering or forcing movement by the referee.”*

# MASS CONFRONTATION

Mass confrontation manifests itself in one of two ways:

- **Several players confronting the referee, assistant referees (ARs) or fourth official – players are trying to intimidate one or more official(s) to influence a current or future outcome/decision.**
- **Multiple players confronting each other – swarm of players exhibiting aggressive behavior toward each other. Physical contact is often a by-product of the acts.**

# MASS CONFRONTATION



When facing a mass concentration between players, the recommendation to match officials is to

- Utilize the “triangle of control” to manage these situations.
- Surround the group of players, via a triangle, the referee team maximizes its chances of identifying the culprits and, thus, taking the appropriate action.

# MASS CONFRONTATION

Mass confrontations share many similar characteristics that referees can use to react quickly in handling these situations:

- Caused by a trigger Issue.
- Recognize the trigger Issue.
- Get there to diffuse.
- Prevent others from joining in.
- Separate and observe. However, if you can not separate the first players at the beginning of the confrontation,

**DO NOT GET INVOLVED**

- Consult and dispense the appropriate misconduct.

# EXTRA PERSON

- Due to the close proximity of non-players to the field of play, there exists the possibility of any of them invading the field and there also exists the possibility of players reacting to comments made by them.
- In the case of a non-player entering the field, referees must be aware that players may be held accountable for their actions and any acts of violence toward a non-player may be handled as violent conduct and, therefore, resulting in a red card.

# EXTRA PERSON

- Violent conduct includes:
  - “...aggression towards any other person (a teammate, the referee, an assistant referee, a spectator, etc.). The ball can be in or out of play. The aggression can occur either on or off the field of play.”
- Referees must be able to distinguish between players reasonably protecting themselves versus players who use excessive force, aggression, and extreme measures towards non-players.



# DIFFERENT FORMS

There are instances where players have indicated their disagreement with match official decisions by:

- Initiating or continuing unacceptable, unwanted, and aggressive physical contact

**with**

the referee, an assistant referee, or fourth official.

# DIFFERENT FORMS

- It does not matter if the physical contact occurs during the match or when the match official is still in the area of the field before or after the match.
- Not every situation is misconduct when a player physically makes contact with a match official.

Players may seek to offer sincere congratulations for the work of the official or to greet in friendly fashion an official with whom they have had previous experience.

# CONSIDERATIONS

Do not tolerate physical contact by anyone (including a substitute, substituted or sent off player, or any other person under the authority of the referee) which:

- involves force or aggression (grabbing, pushing, slapping, bumping, stepping on feet, and so forth)
- is initiated from an unexpected direction and unaccompanied by any warning

# CONSIDERATIONS

- is delivered in a context which clearly includes disapproval, lack of friendliness, or anger.
- the match official has sought to avoid by moving away and by making a gesture which clearly indicates any further approach is unwelcome (continued pursuit by a player, if performed in a threatening manner, is included here even if physical contact does not result).

# CONSIDERATIONS

- restrains or prevents an official from withdrawing from the contact (e.g., by blocking retreat or holding).

# CONSIDERATIONS

- **Do not** initiate contact to attack the player or non-player who assaulted you under any circumstances except to the minimum extent needed to perform the responsibilities required by the Laws of the Game or the Rules of the Competition.

# CONSIDERATIONS

- If you observe one or more approaching player(s) or non-player(s) who appear intent on making impermissible contact, it is appropriate to take reasonable measures to avoid the confrontation, but this should not require you to retreat in haste or for an excessive distance.
- Indicate/communicate (verbally or body language) as quickly as possible that the approach is unwelcome, at which point player or non-player movement toward you should cease.

# CONSIDERATIONS

- **If it does not cease, the action by the player or non-player could be dealt with in accordance with the LOTG (or Rules of the Competition) or, if it involves several players or non-players without physical contact, under the guidelines for mass confrontation or Rules of the Competition.**



# CONSIDERATIONS

- **Under no circumstances can aggressive, unwanted physical contact with match officials be tolerated and all instances must be dealt with firmly both by the appropriate action under the Law and by including all details in the match/supplemental report.**

# CONSIDERATIONS

- Do not get involved with non-players.
- Accepting assignments for non-affiliated games:
  - Increases your risk of exposure to violence.
  - Decreases your level of protection.

# SUMMARY

**If you are the victim of a physical assault related to officiating, there are certain things you should do and not do.**

- **Do not strike back.**
- **Obtain names, addresses and phone numbers of witnesses.**
- **Write down your complete version of what happened as soon as you can and how you were injured.**
- **Find out if a recording of the game/incident have been made, if so, obtain a copy.**
- **Do not discuss the incident with anyone; simply gather information.**
- **Get the police involved if you have been assaulted.**
- **File appropriate police reports and follow through with charges as appropriate.**
- **Prepare a Referee Supplemental report.**
- **Obtain a competent legal counsel.**