



Procedures for Racial/Bigoted Language (Provisional)

OVERVIEW

Effective for 2023 NPL Finals & 2023 National Cup Finals

US Club Soccer is implementing the following procedures and actions in an effort to address and remove Foul and Abusive Language with the caveat of racial, ethnic, or gender identity from our sport. This document supplements [US Club Soccer's Prohibited Conduct Policy](#) (available as Section 13.04/Appendix A of US Club Soccer's Policy Manual), which more broadly addresses maintaining an environment that is free from all forms of discrimination.

To be reviewed following these events to adjust and implement for all activities within US Club Soccer's jurisdiction starting in Fall 2023.

STATEMENT

There is no place for racism, bigotry and any form of verbal abuse and disrespect. Soccer builds character, teaches perseverance and opens opportunities. While we believe competition is a catalyst for those life skills, we too often witness intentional harm that some participants - players, coaches, parents, and families - inflict on others when they lose perspective of what's most important. US Club Soccer has no tolerance for such behavior and considers any number of consequences to eliminate abusive language. Players: remember that your actions today will follow you tomorrow. Coaches: remember that you are role models. Parents and families: remember that you are your child's first cheerleader. Thank you to all those who maintain perspective; they are advancing the game and reaping the benefits.

IN-GAME PROCEDURES FOR ALL SCENARIOS OF A REPORT OF RACIST OR BIGOTED LANGUAGE

- Match immediately suspended.
- Both teams sent to respective benches.
- AR 1 & 2 move toward respective benches.
- Coaches meet with referee AND tournament official to report what was said.
- Coaches meet with team to confirm and address.
- Match resumes.
- Time added at discretion of tournament official.
- Referee report filed with US Club Soccer and sent to leadership from both clubs.

SCENARIO 1: LANGUAGE BY REGISTERED MATCH PARTICIPANT

A registered match participant includes a player, coach, manager, or other registered staff member.

Scenario #1a. Confirmed/heard by referee, assistant referee, or tournament staff. Participant identified.

- Red card issued to offending participant. Ineligible for remainder of competition, including participation with other teams. Suspended from all US Club activities pending a hearing.
- Follow In-Game Procedures for All Scenarios.

Scenario #1b. Confirmed/heard by referee, assistant referee, or tournament staff. Player/coach not identified.

- Follow In-Game Procedures for All Scenarios.

If the individual is not identified, the match may be abandoned at discretion of tournament official.

- Once identified. Red card. Ineligible for remainder of competition, including participation with other teams. Suspended from all US Club activities pending a hearing.

Scenario #1c. Reported by player, coach, or spectator. Not confirmed/heard by referee, assistant referee or tournament staff. Player/coach accused or suspected.

- Follow In-Game Procedures for All Scenarios.
- If the report cannot be corroborated, the match shall continue without sanction. If corroborated, see 1a or 1b.

SCENARIO 2: LANGUAGE BY MATCH SPECTATOR NOT REGISTERED WITH US CLUB SOCCER

Scenario #2a. Confirmed/heard by referee, assistant referee, or tournament staff. Spectator identified.

- Yellow card to head coach. Spectator removed from facility for remainder of event.
- Follow In-Game Procedures for All Scenarios.

Scenario #2b. Confirmed/heard by referee, assistant referee or tournament staff. Spectator not identified.

- Yellow card to head coach. Spectator must be identified to reasonable satisfaction of tournament officials and removed from facility for remainder of event. Failure of spectator to be identified and leave facility or the return of the spectator will result in match abandoned and potential forfeit for the respective team.
- Follow In-Game Procedures for All Scenarios.

Scenario #2c. Reported by player, coach, or spectator. Not confirmed/heard by referee, assistant referee, or tournament staff. Spectator accused or suspected.

- Follow In-Game Procedures for All Scenarios.
- If the report cannot be corroborated, the match shall continue without sanction. If corroborated, see 1a or 1b.

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