

WDDOA – Sideline Conduct Policy

The WDDOA Sideline Conduct policy aims to address increasing objectionable behavior from the spectator sideline directed at the referee and/or the opposing team.



Per the STYSA Progressive Discipline Rules ([Section 4.9. of the STYSA Administrative Handbook](#)), the spectators are under the jurisdiction of STYSA and its member affiliates, WDDOA included, and therefore can be dismissed from a game, be the subject of an investigation, a disciplinary hearing, and receive disciplinary sanctions:

4.9.2.(9) Misconduct by Fan / Supporter. The parents, fans, or supporters of any STYSA team, by attending a STYSA sponsored event, subject themselves to the jurisdiction of the member association and its affiliates, the STYSA Appeals Committee, STYSA Executive Committee and the STYSA Governing Board.

As defined in the STYSA Administrative Handbook, per the chart in Section 4.9.4. Disciplinary Action, spectators are subject to automatic game suspensions for *Offensive, insulting or abusive language to any participant* (players, spectators, coaches, managers), *Referee Abuse*, *Referee Abuse to a referee under 18 years of age* (which carries a longer suspension), and *Referee Assault*.

In addition to the STYSA Rules sanctions, WDDOA has adopted the Sideline Misconduct Progressive Discipline System below in conjunction with the WDDOA Zero Tolerance Policy to promote a positive environment prior to, during, and after the game, at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

WDDOA – Sideline Misconduct Progressive Discipline System

Reporting:

- Details reported on the game card – written by the referee or team official (witnessed by the referee). Please include first and last name of person reporting
- Details reported on USSF report and/or by Competition Official (as defined in the STYSA Administrative Handbook)

Possible violations include (but not limited to):

- Disparaging any member(s) of the referee crew
- Disparaging or making fun of any member(s) of the opposing team and sideline
- Abusive or insulting language aimed at any member(s) of the referee crew
- Abusive or insulting language aimed at any member(s) of the opposing team and sideline
- Any violation of the WDDOA Zero Tolerance Policy
- Refusing to leave as instructed by the referee or your coach per referee's instructions

Steps:

- First year of system adoption: First Violation: Counseling of Coach
- Second Violation: Deduction of one (1) point from the overall standings of the team
- Third Violation: Deduction of two (2) points from the overall standings of the team **and** all spectators must complete the Sideline Etiquette Pledge.
- Fourth Violation: No spectators allowed on the team sideline for the next two (2) games scheduled for the team.
- Fifth Violation: Team is immediately suspended from the competition until a hearing is held to determine discipline including but not limited to fines and forfeits, loss of privileges for the coach for failing to control his team sideline as required by STYSA rule 4.9.3. (1), and expulsion from the league.