

## 2008 R&D Decision Summaries

### KEY

<b>CR = Center Referee</b>	<b>AR = Assistant Referee</b>	<b>TM = Team Manager</b>
<b>HC = Head Coach</b>	<b>AC = Assistant Coach</b>	<b>IFK = Indirect Free Kick</b>
<b>TSL = Team Sportsmanship Liaison</b>		<b>DFK = Direct Free Kick</b>

#### 1. U19D1 – Protest of Game & Alleged Coach and Spectator Misconduct

PWSI has filed a protest based on the misapplication of Law 5 – Authority of the referee in sending off the coach and subsequent termination of the match for the failure of the coach to “leave the complex”.

According to the CR’s report and AR1’s report, it was the CR’s judgment that the ejection of the HC of PWSI was justified. In conjunction, according to NCSL rule: Protests and Appeals Definitions: Other protests: Referee actions other than judgment calls and alleged violation of NCSL rules and procedures, which may have affected the outcome of the game, may be protested. The R&D Committee will determine whether or not the subsequent termination of the match was justified at the scheduled NCSL R&D Committee.

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing from the CR, AR and PWSI team, this Committee firmly believes the PWSI HC did violate the NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct. From the testimony gathered during the hearing it was determined the CR was within his rights in terminating the match, and was within the Laws of the game. It must be noted that the PWSI HC had the responsibility to be familiar with the NCSL Rules regarding ejections and should have complied with the 100 yard rule.

The second matter before the Committee in this case were the actions of a PWSI spectator and based on testimony gathered during the hearing, this Committee firmly believes the spectator did violate the Parent Code of Conduct. This Committee is appalled because this spectator holds a high level position in the PWSI Club and is a referee himself. This spectator abused his power as a referee to interject himself into the situation. This matter will be turned over to the state referee committee for review.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit with the score recorded as PWSI 0 – STAF 3.
2. The second yellow card issued to PWSI HC will not be rescinded.
3. The ejection of the PWSI HC will stand. HC must serve a one game suspension at the next NCSL match.
4. The Committee endorses the two (2) game sit out by PWSI HC.
5. The Committee endorses the self-imposed one game sit out by the spectator.
6. The \$200 Protest fee will not be returned to PWSI.
7. In regards to the spectator’s actions, this Committee will turn this report over to the state referee committee for review.

#### 2. U19D1 - Terminated Game/Alleged Player Misconduct

The NCSL received reports alleging player misconduct and match termination. In the 47<sup>th</sup> minute, the CR reported that an ARL player was ejected from the match after engaging in foul and abusive language and vulgar hand gestures towards the CR. The player then left the field with no further incidents.

In the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute of play, another ARL player received his second caution and was ejected from the game. He then moved aggressively towards the CR and got up in his face arguing with the call and bumping the CR slightly. This was dismissed as incidental contact. Due to the actions of the second ARL player ejected, the CR felt he could not safely continue and terminated the match in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute.

This Committee commends the team sanctions put in place with regard to both of these players. This Committee compliments the actions of the three ARL captains for trying to diffuse the volatile situation between the ARL player and the CR during this match, and especially thanks these players and their parents for attending this hearing.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded ARL 0 – MCLN 3.
2. Based on the Team’s sanctions, player A is suspended for a total of two (2) NCSL League matches.
3. Based on the Team’s sanctions, player B is suspended for the remainder of the Fall 2008 season.

#### 3. U19D1 - Protest of Game

GSC filed a protest alleging violation of Law 7, Periods of Play, and Rules of Play, NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, Section IX. The protest states that the first half of the match was played for 39 minutes and the second half of the match was played for 46 minutes. It is the position of the GSC team that the CR violated Law 7 and took away 6 minutes of play during the first half, eliminating potential scoring opportunities.

The official blue match card and a supplemental report from the referee indicate that the match began on time at 11:00 am. The first half was played for 45 minutes, and the second half was played for 46 minutes which included one minute of stoppage time for an injury and an ejection.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied and the score will stand as played. ABGC 1 - GSC 0.
2. The \$200 Protest fee will not be returned to GSC.

GSC appealed the R&D decision based on an inaccurate reason for the denial of the protest. The remedy requested was to grant the original protest and return of the \$200 protest fee. Since the NCSL fall season is over and a replay would not have any effect on the final standings within the division, GSC does not request the replay of the match anymore.

The NCSL Appeals Committee reviewed the statement by the ABGC team submitted to the R&D Committee, indicating that the ABGC coach thought the referee ended the 1st half a few minutes early. The referee in his report stated that the game clock was started at 11:00 am and not at 11:06; he did not state that the kickoff of the match was at 11:00 am.

Based on the above two statements, the NCSL President called and interviewed the referee concerning the start of the match. On questioning, the referee stated that neither team was ready to start the match at 11:00 am. He informed both teams that the clock was starting at exactly 11:00 am. The referee further admitted that the kickoff of the match occurred at approximately 11:06 am. Therefore, the 1st half was played 6 minutes short. The R&D Committee clearly did not have a factual report from the referee. The referee does not have the authority to alter the length of the halves nor can he start the game clock prior to the kickoff.

Decisions of the NCSL Appeals Committee:

1. The Appeals Committee voted unanimously to grant the appeal.
2. The \$500 appeal fee and the \$200 protest fee will be returned to the GSC team.

**4. U19D2 - Alleged Referee Abuse**

During the match, a CALV player was ejected for receiving two cautions in a given match. The CALV player verbally threatened the CR several times. At this point, the CR terminated the match in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute due to safety concerns for the officiating crew.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded as CUGI 3 - CALV 0.
2. The MSYSA Adjudication Committee found that the CALV player committed referee abuse and he was suspended for three (3) games in addition to the one game automatic suspension for being ejected from the match.

**5. U19D2 - Protest of Game**

SSA has filed a protest stating violation of Law 5 Decisions of the Referee. Time had expired in the match and the CR whistled for the end of the match. After conferring with his AR, the CR calls the players back onto the pitch and awards the FASA team a penalty kick. The kick is taken and FASA scores and the final score is FASA 5 – SSA 5. SSA believes that since the game was whistled over, the CR cannot decide to restart the game for a penalty kick based on Law 5.

According to FIFA Law 5 The Referee, Decisions of the Referee: “The referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or, at his discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee, provided that he has not restarted play or terminated the match.” In this case, time had expired in the match; therefore the CR cannot restart the game for the penalty kick. The score stands as it was when the CR blew his whistle to end the match.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The score will stand as it was at the end of the game FASA 4 - SSA 5.
2. The \$200 Protest fee will be returned to SSA.

**6. U19D2 - Alleged Player Misconduct**

SSA player was ejected from the game for engaging in foul and abusive language towards the CR. After being ejected, the SSA player continued the use of foul and abusive language. The SSA player did not deny any of the allegations and was sincerely remorseful for his conduct. He explained that there were circumstances off the field that contributed to this outburst. The SSA player wrote a letter of apology which was given to the Committee Members and the CR.

After listening to all the testimony at the hearing, the Committee finds this type of behavior unforgivable in a youth sport setting. Problems off the field do not give a player the right to behave this way on the field.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The SSA player is suspended for a total of three (3) NCSL League matches.

**7. U19D4 - Referee Abuse**

The NCSL received reports alleging referee abuse and match abandonment in regards to subject match. The match was abandoned in the 78th minute of play with a score of STAF 1 and EPIC 1. The allegation of referee abuse will be reviewed and/or adjudicated by the West Virginia Soccer Association, as EPIC is affiliated with that state association. The STAF Head Coach (HC) and EPIC HC, as well as most of their teams' affiliates, reported seeing lighting and agreed to "call the game a 1:1 tie."

The Center Referee (CR) reports that in the 7th minute of play, an EPIC Player sustained a serious injury which temporarily suspended play until the ambulance departed the field. Play resumed and several yellow and red cards were issued. After being dismissed from the field of play, the EPIC coaches pulled their team from the pitch, thereby abandoning the match.

The R&D Committee spent a substantial amount of time researching this matter. After reviewing match reports from the CR, the Assistant Referees (AR) and the supplemental report filed by the CR, the R&D Committee finds that the match was abandoned when the EPIC Team left the field.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match result is voided and declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded as STAF 3 and EPIC 0.
2. All cards issued during and after the match will stand. Sit outs served and documented, if any, will be valid.

**8. U19D4 - Violent Conduct**

A TAPK Player was ejected for violent conduct. After being ejected, the TAPK Player did not leave the field of play and also approached the referee.

The TAPK Team Manager (TM) stated the team was traveling a distance in the rain and players were showing up in stages. She continued by saying that they started the game short-handed and felt they played well. She stated that she did not see the player throw a punch, but saw her player on the ground with the opponent standing over him. She acknowledged that her player did in fact push him off. At this point the TAPK Player walked toward the referee. The referee started to back away and the TAPK Player continued to approach the referee. The TAPK TM asked the player what the opponent said. He replied the opponent asked, "What are you going to do now?" The TAPK TM asked the player why he approached the referee; he said that he wanted to explain.

The BAYS TM stated, "She missed the whole thing".

The player was unable to attend the hearing, but sent a letter of a thoughtful apology.

Decision of the R&D Committee:

The TAPK Player received a three game suspension.

**9. U19D4 - Alleged Player Misconduct**

TAPK player was ejected from the game after receiving two yellow cards, one for dissent and the second yellow for violent conduct. After being ejected, the TAPK player engaged in foul and abusive language towards the CR and one of the ARs.

The TAPK Team Manager had discussions with the TAPK player regarding his behavior and informed him he would sit out for two NCSL league games. TAPK player was also required to read the Code of Conduct to the rest of his teammates and write a letter of apology. The Committee embraces all the actions taken by the TAPK Team Officials to help ensure this type of behavior does not happen again.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. TAPK player is suspended for a total of three (3) NCSL League matches.

## **10. U17D1 - Protest of Game**

ARL protested the result of the subject match which was played to completion with a score of TAPK 2 and ARL 2. The ARL complaint alleges the use of unrostered players by TAPK. A written statement was provided by ARL, and the CR. The TAPK HC was contacted and team documents were offered for review.

Prior to the game, the ARL Team was made aware that four TAPK players were scheduled to play in an ODP match that morning. Attempts were made by the TAPK HC to reschedule the match due to the ODP conflict although they were unsuccessful. The game began on time and at least two players from the TAPK team arrived late. At half-time, noting non-matching uniform shorts and the departure of two TAPK players, ARL requested the referee check the rosters and player passes. Eleven TAPK players remained and all were found to have been properly rostered and carded.

At the end of the match, the ARL TM checked the blue match card. Sixteen players were listed, but none of the TAPK players were crossed-off the blue match card to indicate they were not playing in this match. Upon receipt of the ARL protest, the Committee contacted TAPK. TAPK demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Committee that all players present for this match were properly rostered. Furthermore, had ARL simply brought the blue match card to the attention of TAPK, it could have been amended at the pitch thereby remedying the perceived irregularity.

The Committee finds that NO credible evidence existed to support the claim that any unrostered player or players participated during the subject match.

### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied. The match result stands as played.
2. ARL forfeits the \$200 protest fee.

## **11. U17D1 - Failure to Follow Proper Game Procedure**

The match was played to completion with a score of ARL 4 – MSC 1. Written statements were received from all parties. A hearing was held at the Westin Hotel on April 28, 2008. In attendance were the MSC HC, MSC TM, an MSC affiliate, ARL HC, ARL TM, an ARL affiliate and the ARL Club Representative, as well as AR and the spectator who served as AR2 during the match.

Prior to the start of the match and when it was determined that one of the ARs had not arrived. The CR approached the ARL HC to ask if he knew of any referee who could serve as AR2 for the game. The ARL HC pointed to a spectator on the opposite side of the field who was then approached by the CR and agreed to serve as AR2.

The assigned AR2 arrived at the match approximately 15-20 minutes after the kick-off. At half time, the referee crew, with the input of the late-arriving AR, decided it would be appropriate to continue the second half with the same crew. At this point, the late-arriving AR left the field.

The MSC TM testified that she noted the arrival of the forth referee, and was aware of a half time discussion between all four members of the officiating crew, after which the late-arriving AR2 left the field. Further, the MSC TM testified that this sequence of events, as well as other perceived anomalies, raised her suspicion of a possible relationship between the spectator and the ARL Team.

At the completion of the match, the MSC TM approached the referee crew and asked if the Spectator had a son on the ARL Team. When the Spectator responded in the affirmative, the MSC TM informed the crew that a protest would be filed since the family relationship was not disclosed prior to the start of the match. The CR and AR1 were surprised to learn of the relationship.

The ARL affiliates confirmed that the Spectator was a parent of one of their players and had worked the entire match as AR2.

The Spectator testified that he had served as a volunteer referee on at least four other occasions during the season and had not revealed his family relationship to an ARL player on any of those occasions.

The Committee finds that the ARL Team and their affiliates failed to follow proper game procedure, as outlined in the NCSL Rules and Procedures, Section X, *When a Referee is Missing*. *“If the referee does not arrive, the game may be played with a volunteer referee whether certified or not. If both coaches agree to use a volunteer referee, no protests of the outcome of the match will be allowed based on the qualification (or lack thereof) of the volunteer. If an immediate family member of a player is a certified referee and is available, s/he may perform the duties of the certified referee or assistant referee. Immediate family member is defined as but not limited to parent, grandparent, guardian, sibling, aunt, uncle, or any family relationship that may have a vested interest in the outcome of the match. The referee and the team should err on the side of informing their opponent that an apparent conflict of interest exists.”*

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match result is annulled. The match must be replayed in its entirety.
2. The ARL Team is fined \$250.00 for failure to follow NCSL Rules and Procedures, Section X, *When a Referee is Missing*. The fine must be received in the League office during normal working hours no later than Friday, May 23, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

#### **12. U17D2 - Alleged Code of Conduct violations by Team Officials and Players**

The NVSC HC screamed and yelled at the officiating crew for most of the match, and so did the NVSC players. Despite two verbal warnings to the HC to set a better example for his players, the dissent continued. Two NVSC players were ejected from the game and did not leave the immediate field of play. The NVSC Team Officials seemed to be unaware of the NCSL rule regarding ejected players being 100 yards from the field.

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing from the CR and the NVSC Team Officials, this Committee firmly believes the NVSC HC violated the Leaders Code of Conduct. The constant loud, verbal dissent towards the CR by the NVSC HC sets the tone for the players to act the same way. The role of the HC is to give tactical advice to the players, not to critique every call made by the CR. Team officials never have the right to challenge the calls of a CR. This Committee is very disappointed in the lack of emotional control by the NVSC HC and will not tolerate this type of behavior.

The NVSC players also violated the Players Code of Conduct. This type of poor sportsmanship and dissent towards the CR shows a lack of respect for the game of soccer and has no place in youth sports. This is an issue that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate. The Team Manager/TSL for NVSC did not fulfill her role and manage the ejected players properly. This contributed to the players not being 100 yards from the field of play.

This Committee is saddened by the fact this is the second time we have seen this NVSC team in a R&D Hearing for leadership violations during the Fall 2008 season. Furthermore, the Committee hopes NVSC will address this issue at the club level to ensure this type of behavior by this NVSC team is not repeated in the future.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The NVSC Team Officials and players will be placed on disciplinary probation effective immediately thru the 2009 calendar year. The terms of this probation require that the entire team maintain a completely satisfactory disciplinary record. Cautions and ejections in matches, supplemental reports from referees and comments on blue match cards will all be evaluated to ensure that the NVSC team have satisfied the terms of probation. Violation of the terms of probation will result in an additional R&D hearing.
2. The NVSC team is fined \$500 for failure of the HC to comply with the Leaders Code of Conduct in its entirety and failure of the Team Manager/TSL for not following the NCSL procedures set in place for ejected players and for the team's second time violating the Leaders Code of Conduct.

#### **13. U17D2 - Alleged Leader Misconduct**

The NCSL received reports alleging leader misconduct which led to the ejection of the NVSC HC. Based on all statements gathered during the hearing, it was discovered the AC was acting HC during this match. This Committee firmly believes the NVSC AC violated the Leaders Code of Conduct. The NVSC AC challenged every call or no call during the game even though the CR warned him to stop. At one point in the second half the AC began yelling derogatory comments to the CR and the CR ejected the AC. Not only was the AC defiant after receiving a Red card, he returned to the field of play once the match had ended. The NVSC AC demonstrated a lack of leadership. Furthermore his behavior was egregious and will not be tolerated by the NCSL.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. NVSC AC is suspended for a total of three (3) NCSL League matches.
2. NVSC AC must complete the on-line Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) course prior to returning to the team sideline in any official capacity.
3. In the event NVSC AC is part of the official coaching staff next season, he will be required to complete the PCA workshop.

#### **14. U17D3 - Alleged Parent/Spectator Misconduct**

During the 85<sup>th</sup> minute of play a DSC player fouled a CALV player and received a yellow card for the foul. A spectator, the father of the DSC player who had been cautioned began to dissent. He was very loud and direct. The CR ejected the spectator. After the game was complete, the ejected spectator returned to argue with the CR about the call.

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing from the CR and DSC team officials, this Committee firmly believes the DSC spectator violated the NCSL Parents Code of Conduct. This is a situation that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate. The Committee firmly believes that the behavior of the DSC spectator was extremely inappropriate.

The Committee embraces the team sanctions submitted by DSC for the spectator prior to the R&D Hearing. The DSC Club and DSC HC are to be commended for their quick response in addressing this serious matter, and in asking for assistance from the Committee to help control this spectator.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The DSC spectator is suspended for a total of three (3) NCSL League matches as outlined in the DSC team letter.
2. The DSC spectator is placed on R&D probation for the remainder of the Fall 2008 season.

**15. U17D4 - Alleged Player Misconduct**

During the match, a CYA player used foul and abusive language complaining about a non-call. After being ejected from the game, he displayed a vulgar hand gesture towards the CR. The Committee commends and thanks the CYA Club for taking action in this matter. The NCSL R&D Committee received the letter of apology from the CYA player.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The Committee accepts the two game suspension handed down by the club.

**16. U17D4 - Alleged Team Official Misconduct**

During the match, CYA HC was asked several times by the CR to stop yelling and protesting all the calls made. This HC continued this behavior in the second half despite several warnings by the CR. The CR showed the CYA HC a red card and ejected him from the match. The CYA HC did not leave the field completely and remained in sight of the game. At the end of the match, he returned to the team bench.

CYA HC demonstrated a lack of leadership and poor sportsmanship. Although remorseful, the CYA HC's lack of knowledge for the NCSL rules and procedures is not an acceptable excuse for returning to the field after being ejected from the game. This type of behavior was inappropriate and will not be tolerated by the NCSL

This Committee commends the CYA Club's sanction put in place with regard to any future red cards accumulated by the CYA HC and hopes more clubs will institute a no tolerance policy for this type of behavior. This Committee hopes the CYA HC will learn from this experience and familiarize himself with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. CYA HC is suspended for two (2) NCSL League matches. One sit out for the Red card and one additional sit out for not leaving the field of play after the ejection.

**17. U17D4 - Alleged Team Official & Player Misconduct**

The CR filed a report alleging two FASA players engaged in foul and abusive language during the match and were subsequently ejected. Three additional FASA players were cautioned in the match. After the game, the FASA AC approached the referee area and began verbally harassing the CR despite being warned several times to leave the area immediately. The CR noted the overall attitude and lack of sportsmanship of the FASA team officials and players showed a complete lack of respect for the game.

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing from the Center Referee, FASA Team Officials and CYA Team Officials, this Committee firmly believes the FASA AC was in violation of the NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct. In addition, the two FASA players who engaged in foul and abusive language were in violation of the NCSL Players Code of Conduct. When players from one team accumulate two red cards and four yellow cards in a single game, it is a clear indication all respect for the game and authority has also been lost and the NCSL will not tolerate this type of behavior.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. FASA AC is suspended for one (1) NCSL League match.
2. Both FASA players are suspended for a total of three (3) NCSL League matches each
3. The entire FASA team is on probation for the remainder of the Fall 2008 season.

**18. U16D1 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing, the Committee firmly believes the DCST parent was in violation of the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct. Also, DCST HC was in violation of the above-mentioned NCSL Leader's Code of Conduct.

This is an issue that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate. Coaches must understand that the field of play is "sacred". The field of play is meant for players and match officials. Unless given permission by the Center Referee, coaches have no right to enter the field of play. And in that event, there are specific and appropriate actions that should be taken.

The DCST HC's lack of good judgment to enter the field of play after being warned several times to stop was nothing less than egregious.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The Committee commends the DCST Soccer Club for being proactive and endorses their plan of action.
2. DCST HC is placed on R&D probation for one calendar year. Any incident involving unsporting behavior toward any match participant, as well as receiving a match caution or any ejection will result in automatic R&D review for additional sanctions.
3. DCST Parent is suspend from attending matches for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season and is placed on R&D probation for one calendar year. Any incident involving unsporting behavior toward any match participant, as well as receiving a match caution or any ejection will result in automatic R&D review for additional sanctions.
4. The DCST Team is fined \$250 for failure to comply with the NCSL Leader and Parent Codes of Conduct. The fine must be received in the league office during normal working hours no later than June 4, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

**19. U16D2 - Terminated Game/Coach Misconduct**

The match was terminated in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute of play with a score of SYA 1 - SYC 0. Written statements were received from all parties. A hearing was held at the Westin Hotel on April 22, 2008. The SYC HC, SYC affiliates and two members of the officiating crew were in attendance. The R&D Chairman recused herself from the hearing due to the fact that her son plays in this division.

The referee stated the SYC HC "dissented verbally on just about all of the officiating team's calls" and demanded explanations from the referee regarding the officiating. In minute 55 of the game, SYC HC was cautioned and shown the yellow card for dissent. In minute 75, SYC HC "verbally exploded over a call," was shown the red card, and directed to leave. The SYC HC then entered the pitch, approached the referee in a confrontational manner, and used profanity directed toward the referee. At this point, the referee terminated the match. The SYC HC then approached one of the assistant referees and again used profanity. While the referee crew was collecting their equipment, SYC HC approached the referees again and verbally dissented with the referee's decision to terminate the match. SYC HC left the area when one of the assistant referees asked if the police were needed.

The referee's account was corroborated by the AR present during the hearing. The SYC HC also corroborated the referee's account and stated during the hearing that a similar situation had occurred while coaching another team, thus demonstrating a history of inappropriate behavior.

The committee finds the SYC HC failed to leave the vicinity of the pitch immediately after being shown the red card, entered the pitch after being dismissed, accosted the referee, and used foul and abusive language directed toward the referees, individually and collectively. The committee is disturbed by the lack of emotional control and leadership exhibited by the SYC HC and the blatant disregard for the NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct. Further, the committee finds the actions meet the criteria for coach misconduct and referee abuse, and are reportable to the State Referee Program and VYSA. The committee also finds that the referee correctly applied Law 5 in expelling SYC HC and subsequently terminating the match.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded SYA 3 - SYC 0.
2. All cards issued will stand and sit outs served will be valid.
3. SYC HC is suspended from all NCSL-related team and club activities, inclusive of recruiting, team meetings, practices and League matches until June 30, 2008. League match suspensions must be documented in accordance with the provisions of the NCSL R&P Manual.
4. SYC HC is placed on R&D probation for one calendar year. Any incident involving foul and/or abusive language or behavior toward any match participant, as well as excessive accumulation of match cautions or any ejection will result in automatic R&D review for possible additional sanctions.

SYC HC filed an appeal of the R&D decision. The basis of appeal is as follows:

1. the decision by the R&D Committee to suspend SYC HC is not consistent with precedent(s) as evidenced by past decisions related to comparable events; and
2. the decision by the R&D Committee unduly and adversely affects the development of the youth players on the SYC squad.

The following events of what transpired as reported by the R&D Committee are not in dispute:

- Failed to leave the vicinity of the pitch immediately after being shown the red card.
- Entered the pitch after being dismissed.
- Accosted the CR.
- Used foul and abusive language directed toward the CR.
- Used foul and abusive language directed toward one of the ARs.
- Did not leave the vicinity of the pitch until one of the AR offered to phone the police.

In arguing that the suspension was not consistent with precedent, the appeal outlined three previous R&D cases in which lighter suspensions were issued. In the response to the appeal, the R&D Committee argued that the precedents cited were not comparable events. In those previous cases, the R&D Committee argued that the behavior of SYC HC was significantly worse than the cited cases. Further, the R&D Committee argued that no precedent existed that addressed all the findings of this case and cited three different R&D cases from 2005 that they believed were more relevant and the suspensions issued were for an entire season.

The argument that the decision by the R&D Committee unduly and adversely affects the development of the youth players on the SYC squad maybe true but is not relevant. The consequences to the team are a direct result of the SYC HC actions at the match. SYC HC's extensive knowledge of the game and experience as both a player and youth-soccer professional should have enabled him to mitigate his behavior of his own accord, but that did not happen.

The purpose of the appeals hearing is not to substitute the opinion of the appeals committee for the opinion of the R&D Committee but to determine if the R&D Committee made any errors in process, procedure, or precedent in reaching its decision. In the unanimous opinion of the appeals committee, the R&D Committee made neither error in process or procedures nor in evaluation in reaching its decision.

#### Decision of the Appeals Committee:

The appeal is denied. The Appeals Committee decided to modify R&D Decision #3 as follows: SYC HC is suspended from all NCSL league matches until June 15, 2008. League match suspensions must be documented in accordance with the provisions of the NCSL R&P Manual.

#### **20. U16D2 - Violent Conduct**

Based on statements gathered during the hearing from both DSC and SYA Team Representatives, this Committee firmly believes the violent conduct demonstrated by both teams will not be tolerated. There is simply no place in youth sports for physical violence. Inasmuch as the Committee understands the competitive nature of game, it does not and will never condone physical violence as a solution.

#### Decision of the R&D Committee:

DSC HC and SYA HC will be placed on disciplinary probation for the next season in which the team competes in the NCSL. The terms of this probation require both HC's maintain a completely satisfactory disciplinary record. Cautions and ejections in matches, supplemental reports from referees and comments on blue match cards will all be evaluated to ensure that DSC HC and SYA HC have satisfied the terms of probation. Violation of the terms of probation will result in an additional R&D hearing.

#### **21. U16D2 - Alleged Team Official, Spectator & Player Misconduct**

According to the CR's game report a VIST spectator was ejected from the game for dissent over a call made by the CR. His rant of vulgar and abusive language at the CR was nothing less than egregious. He returned to the field of play several times during the match and was asked to leave each time. The VIST HC was also ejected for engaging in foul and abusive language and minutes later the VIST AC was ejected for throwing a water bottle onto the pitch. The match was then terminated in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute. Both VIST coaches returned to the field once the game was terminated.

Once the game was terminated, several VIST players began harassing the officiating crew. The CR noted that some of the VIST players knew how to avoid future punishment and removed their jerseys so the CR could not get their numbers.

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing from the CR, VIST Team Officials and VIST spectators, this Committee firmly believes the VIST HC, VIST AC, the VIST spectator and numerous VIST players violated the Code of Conduct. This display of poor sportsmanship and verbal abuse towards the CR has no place in youth sports. This is an issue that the Committee finds appalling and will not tolerate. The Committee firmly believes that once the VIST coaches and spectator disrespected the referees, the VIST players felt this type of behavior was acceptable. Coaches and parents must be the role models for these young players.

This Committee commends the VIST club for reprimanding this team for their deplorable behavior, and should any future misconduct occur, this team could lose their privilege to be a member of the VIST club.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded VIST 0 – SYC 3.
2. VIST HC is suspended for two (2) NCSL League matches and is placed on R&D probation for the remainder of the Fall 2008 season.
3. VIST AC is suspended for two (2) NCSL League matches.
4. The spectator of the VIST team who was ejected is banned from attending the next two (2) NCSL league matches.
5. All VIST team players are placed on R&D probation for the remainder of the 2008 Fall season.

**22. U16D2 - Protest of Game**

VIST is protesting match citing failure to comply with NCSL Rules. VIST believes the CR terminated the match in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute because there were no coaches left to coach the game. This was due to the fact that the VIST HC and VIST AC were ejected from the game. VIST is also protesting the foul called by the CR which resulted in a penalty kick for SYC.

According to the CR, the match was not terminated due to the lack of "carded team officials". It was terminated due to the elevated level of aggression displayed by the VIST coaches. The HC was ejected and minutes later the AC was ejected for losing his temper and throwing a water bottle onto the pitch. Based on the testimony from all concerned parties at the NCSL R&D Hearing, the match was deemed a forfeit by VIST due to the misconduct by the VIST HC and the VIST AC. The judgment foul called by the CR which resulted in a penalty kick for SYC may not be protested.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded VIST 0 – SYC 3.
2. The \$200 protest fee will not be returned to the VIST team.

**23. U16D2 - Alleged Misconduct by the HC**

The first half of this match was well played. The CR did go talk with the MCLN HC to ask him not to dissent every call made or not made during the game. The MCLN HC then threw his hat in disgust, so the CR issued a yellow card for dissent. During the second half the MCLN HC began harassing the AR and was eventually issued a second yellow card and was ejected from the match. The MCLN HC left the sideline but not the field. As he was walking away he engaged in foul and abusive language. When the HC was leaving the field for the second time after the game, he looked at the CR and spit on the ground.

Written statements were received from all parties. One of the ARs, the MCLN HC and Team Manager were in attendance. The AR testified that when the MCLN HC was ejected he initially did not leave the bench area and when he did leave, began screaming obscenities.

The MCLN HC testified and agreed his actions were not acceptable. He did throw his hat but it was out of frustration for the game, not directed towards the CR. The HC also agreed he was dissenting the calls during the game and understands why he was ejected from the match. However, he disputed the cursing. He also stated the spitting was misinterpreted. He was spitting sunflower seeds at the time.

The MCLN club is to be commended for their proactive role in initiating their own investigation prior to the hearing and formulating a plan of action to help the HC curtail his emotional outbursts. This Committee agrees the MCLN HC has a bright future, and is hopeful this mentoring program will help the HC learn how to deal with adversity and become a better role model for the young players on his team.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. MCLN HC is placed on R&D Probation for the 2009 calendar year with any team he coaches in NCSL. The terms of this probation require the MCLN HC maintain a completely satisfactory disciplinary record
2. The Committee accepts the two (2) game suspensions imposed by the MCLN club and their plan of action to help the HC modify his behavior, as outlined in the letter from the MCLN club.

#### **24. U16D2 - Alleged Player Misconduct**

The NCSL received reports alleging player misconduct by a FSC player. After FASA scored a goal, the FSC player immediately started arguing with the CR stating the goal should be disallowed due to off-sides. The CR simply shook his head in disagreement and then the player made a very vulgar, racist comment about the AR who, in his opinion, should have made the off-sides call. The FSC player was immediately ejected from the game and exited the field of play with no further incidents.

##### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The FSC player is suspended for three (3) NCSL matches.
2. The FSC player is on player probation for the remainder of the Fall 2008 season.
3. The FSC player must write a letter of apology to the league, the AR and CR (approved and signed by FSC Executive Committee and team coach).

#### **25. U16D6 - Terminated Game/Alleged Team Official and Player Misconduct**

The NCSL received reports alleging misconduct by the CALV HC, a CALV player and a CALV spectator. The CALV player was ejected from the match due to violent conduct. The CALV HC stepped onto the pitch to dissent. The CALV HC did not take any action to help remove the ejected player from the team bench area. Eventually the player walked around to the spectator side. The CR again asked the player to leave but he would not comply. Due to these alleged actions, the match was terminated after the first half.

The allegations against the CALV HC are in fact redirected to the acting CALV HC of the match. Based on testimony at the hearing, there was an acting CALV HC during the match, even though the official CALV HC had signed the blue game card. The acting HC assumed HC responsibilities without fully understanding his role. He was cautioned by the CR for dissent and entered the pitch without permission.

Once the CALV player was ejected from the game, the acting CALV HC did not ensure he left the field of play, even when asked by the CR. The CALV spectator encouraged his son to stay at the field and informed the CR that he did not have to leave the field of play. The lack of an active TSL compounded this problem and it was clear the acting CALV HC did not understand the NCSL Rules and Procedures.

##### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded CALV 0 – VIST 3.
2. Acting CALV HC is suspended for one (1) NCSL League match.
3. The CALV team is fined \$250 for failure to comply with the NCSL Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL) and Team Manager Procedures.

#### **26. U15D2 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing this Committee firmly believes that the LAUR Team violated the NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct. This is a situation that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate. This Committee firmly believes that the behavior of the LAUR Assistant Coaches (AC) was extremely inappropriate.

Both LAUR AC's demonstrated a lack of leadership. Furthermore their behavior was egregious and will not be tolerated by the NCSL.

##### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. LAUR AC1 is suspended for the next three NCSL League matches.
2. LAUR AC2 is suspended for one match, which must be served in the next NCSL match.

#### **27. U15D2 - Protest of Game**

DSC Fusion is protesting the CR and AR's failure to notify the DSC Team that there was a direct family relationship between the AR and one of the SSA players. The AR in question was assigned to this game and not a volunteer.

The Center Referee reported that he was not made aware one of the ARs for the game had a family member on the SSA Rapids team. NCSL Rules & Procedures, Section X Game Procedures clearly states, "The referee crew must inform and get agreement from both coaches if one member of the crew is an immediate family member of a player. In addition, the team utilizing the family member as a referee or assistant referee has an obligation to ensure that their opponent is informed of the family relationship of the referee or assistant referee. In either of the above situations, the agreement of both coaches MUST be noted on the game report card prior to the start of play and MUST be initialed by them."

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is upheld and the game will be replayed in its entirety.
2. The \$200 Protest fee shall be returned to DSC Fusion.

**28. U15D2 - Protest**

ABGC alleges that the CR misapplied Law 6 by starting the match with the CR and only one AR. The CR opted not to use a volunteer AR and when the second neutral AR arrived, he joined the officiating crew.

USSF Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game, Section 6.6 provides, "*Where neutral assistant referees are not available, the referee **may** use club linesmen.*" NCSL Rules and Procedures, Section X Game Procedures provides procedures for when the referee is missing and use of club linesmen. An assistant referee is not "the" referee. Since neither the Laws of the Game nor NCSL rules mandate replacement of a missing assistant referee, the Committee concludes that the referee correctly applied the Law in this instance.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied and the game will not be replayed.
2. The Red card for the ABGC player will not be overturned.
3. The \$200 Protest fee shall not be returned to ABGC.

**29. U15D3 - Protest of Game**

ASC protested the result of the subject match. The match played to completion with a result of FCH 3 and ASC 2. ASC alleged a misapplication of the Laws of the Game by the referee. A written statement was provided by ASC, and the referee crew was contacted by a member of the R&D Committee. In addition, the R&D Committee consulted with USSF-certified referee instructors and assessors, and reviewed the USSF Advice to Referees.

ASC stated, "With approximately 5 minutes remaining in the tied 2-2 game, the referee fairly awarded a direct free kick to FCH approximately 20 yards from the ASC goal. As the ASC Team began to put their "wall" in place, the referee instructed the ASC players to back up ten yards. The referee was motioning to the ASC players to back up when, all of a sudden, the FCH Team kicked the ball into the net. The referee did not blow his whistle to restart play before the kick was taken. To clarify, at no time was the whistle blown, the FCH simply kicked the ball into the net while the referee was still instructing the ASC players to clear the 10 yard area, the "wall" was starting to walk backwards, and the referee was still close to the wall motioning for them to back up."

The referees recall the restart of play somewhat differently: With five minutes remaining, a direct free kick was awarded to FSC approximately 25 yards from the goal, near the corner of the penalty area. ASC properly set up a 3-player wall roughly ten yards from the ball. A fourth defender then placed himself approximately eight feet in front of the ball, with his back to the ball, in violation of Law 13. The referee directed the infringing player to back up, and as the player slowly moved away from the ball, his opponent kicked the ball into the net.

The Committee concludes that the goal was scored because FCH kicked the ball into the net, without infringing the Laws of the Game, and despite ASC wrongly attempting to interfere with the restart. While proper procedure in accordance with the Advice to Referees would have been to ignore the misbehavior of ASC, it remained ASC's responsibility to keep their eye on the ball and defend their goal.

ASC had no right to demand a ceremonial restart, and in fact their attempt to do so might have been cautioned and the infringing player shown the yellow card. The referee's momentary procedural error is not sufficient for the Committee to nullify the outcome of the match in this instance.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied. The result of the match is upheld.
2. ASC forfeits the \$200 protest fee.

**30. U15D5 - Protest of Ejected Player**

EPIC appeals the ejection of EPIC Player and DSC Player during the subject match. Both players were ejected for Violent Conduct and left the field without further incident. The match played to completion with a result of DSC 3 and EPIC 3.

EPIC alleged that the referee stopped the game upon signal by the club linesman (CL), and without communicating further with the CL ejected the two players. EPIC further states that the referee, "admitted he issued the red cards not for what had

happened but for what was going to happen, a preemptive red card." The appeal fee was received within the time specified, and EPIC provided a written statement. The referee's report stated both players were ejected for Violent Conduct.

The Committee concludes that the referee's actions were in accordance with Law 5 and Law 12.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The appeal is denied. The ejections are upheld. As stated in the NCSL Rules and Procedures manual, the sit outs required due to the ejections were not held in abeyance pending review of this appeal. Further action will be taken if either player did not observe the sit out requirement in accordance with NCSL procedures.
2. EPIC forfeits the \$200 appeal fee.

**31. U15D5 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing, the Committee firmly believes that STER HC was in violation of the NCSL Leader's Code of Conduct. This is an issue that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate.

The STER HC's lack of good judgment to enter the field of play was nothing less than egregious. The field of play is meant for players and match officials. Unless given permission by the CR, coaches have no right to enter the field of play. And in that event, there are specific and appropriate actions that should be taken.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. STER HC must serve two games suspension in addition to the red card suspension. If the coach should change teams, this suspension will follow him and must be served with any new team he joins.
2. The STER Team is fined \$200.00. The fine must be received in the league office during normal working hours no later than July 14, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

**32. U15D7 - Protest of Game**

ARL protested the result of subject match which was played to completion with a result of GRFL 1 and ARL 0. ARL alleged improper use of a referee who was the brother of a player on the opposing team without prior consent by both coaches, and the improper offside's call made by this referee. Written statements were provided by ARL and the assigned referee and AR. The R&D Committee also contacted the referee assignor to discuss the late arrival of an AR.

The game began with an assigned referee and AR, plus a CL filling in for an AR who had not yet arrived at the field. ARL states that early in the first half, the GRFL keeper mishandled the ball, which was then kicked into the net by ARL. ARL contends that the referee then consulted with the CL, and disallowed the goal due to an offside infraction. Soon after, the second AR arrived and assumed his duties, while the volunteer linesman returned to his role as spectator, where he enthusiastically advocated for the opposing team.

The referee recalls the situation differently, stating that the CL was not consulted on an offside call, only on the behavior of spectators.

USSF Policy 531-8, Section 3 states: "When neutral assistant referees are not assigned or fail to appear for a match as assigned, the match referee may seek the assistance of club linesman whose duties shall be as delegated to them by the referee." The referee's use of a CL is not subject to the notification and documentation requirement cited in the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, Section X, Game Procedures: When the Referee is missing.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied. The result of the match is upheld.
2. ARL forfeits the \$200 protest fee.

**33. U14D1 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

The Committee was very disappointed the POT AC did not attend the hearing.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The R&D Committee endorses POT's Team ordered sanctions.
2. POT Assistant Coach must serve a one game suspension, in addition to his red card suspension.

**34. U14D1 - Alleged Head Coach Misconduct and Game Protest**

NCSL received reports alleging HERN HC misconduct. Based on all statements gathered during the hearing from the CR and HERN Team Officials, this Committee firmly believes the HERN HC was in violation of the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, Appendix VI Virginia Policy on Misconduct of Coaches. The HERN HC was ejected from the game

after receiving two cautions. At first the HC would not leave, then as he was slowly walking away he began yelling at the obscenities at the CR. The HERN HC stopped on the spectator side of the field and again the CR heard him. At this point he stopped the match and asked for HERN HC to leave again. When the HERN HC did not comply, the match was terminated. This is a situation that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate. This Committee firmly believes that the behavior of the HERN HC was appalling.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. HERN HC is suspended for four (4) NCSL League matches and he is placed on R&D probation for the 2009 calendar year.
2. In the event, the HERN team does not participate in the NCSL Spring 2009 season, this four game suspension and R&D probation will follow the HERN HC to any team he is affiliated with in the NCSL Spring 2009 season, or subsequent seasons upon his return to NCSL.
3. The match is declared a forfeit HERN 0 – SYC 3.

The second part of this case was a protest by the HERN team regarding the checking of the SYC player passes. HERN alleges the CR failed to enforce the NCSL rule regarding the checking and verification of the SYC roster and player passes within the 15 minute grace period of the scheduled start of the match.

Based on testimony gathered at the NCSL R&D hearing, the CR indicated he had spoken with each team and both agreed to start the match and check the player passes for SYC at half time. HERN did not have any objection to starting the match. HERN could not prove that the SYC player passes were not at the field within the 15 minute grace period after the kickoff of the match.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied and the game is declared a forfeit in favor of SYC based on the termination of the match due to the HERN HC not leaving the field after being ejected from the match.
2. The score will be recorded HERN 0 – SYC 3.
3. The \$200 Protest fee shall not be returned to HERN.

HERN appealed the decision and claimed all written testimony presented to the R&D Committee was not disseminated to them. In particular, the written testimony of the assistant referee was not shared. For the record, the youth assistant referee did not submit a written statement to the R&D Committee.

The NCSL has established precedent that a team cannot protest a match on a rule that the team agreed to ignore or violate. Regardless of the statements or assertions made by the HERN team claiming that they did not agree to play the match without checking the player passes; the HERN team by playing the match agreed to ignore the rule on checking the player passes prior to the match. Referees and team officials are both responsible for ensuring that league rules are followed. If HERN was so insistent that the match was being played in violation of league rules, they should not have taken the field and played the match rather they should have abandoned the match and filed their protest with R&D Committee.

Decision of the Appeals Committee:

1. The unanimous decision of the NCSL Appeals Committee was to deny the appeal and uphold the R&D decision.

**35. U14D4 - Terminated Match and Poor Sportsmanship**

The WALD Team began the game led by WALD AC until the WALD HC arrived approximately 25 minutes into the first half. The referee crew reported that during the first half, much dissent was heard from WALD affiliates on both the team and spectator sides of the field. During the second half, the unsporting behavior continued, resulting in the ejection of two WALD parents. The WALD AC was cautioned for dissent, and WALD Player A was cautioned for unsporting behavior. In the 41<sup>st</sup> minute, with the BAYS Team leading by a score of 4-2, WALD HC removed his players from the field, causing the referee to terminate the match. Prior to the termination of the match, WALD Parent C made a loud comment described later by WALD HC as “totally inappropriate.”

The WALD HC stated that throughout the course of the first half of the match, the CR made several judgment calls that he did not agree with. The WALD HC felt one particular judgment call related to a penalty kick that was awarded to the opposing team. The player from the opposing team approached the ball using a “stutter step”. The ball landed in the back of the net. We were all yelling “Is that legal?” At that point, the CR blew his whistle and instructed a retake.

Several WALD parents testified that they were making comments about the missed/lack of called by the AR. This was all being done within hear shot of the AR. After hearing the parents continue their critique of the AR, he finally turned around and informed the parents that he had heard enough. The parent responded by saying that they were not speaking to the AR

and that he should have been professional enough to block out their conversation. Following the exchange between the WALD parents and the AR, the AR summoned the CR. After a brief conversation, the CR ejected one of the WALD parents.

As the game continued, the WALD HC insisted on asking the CR to explain his calls. The WALD HC felt and a parent felt that because he wouldn't provide an explanation, it was creating a hostile environment. The WALD HC continued by saying that the CR ejected another parent. The WALD HC shouted out and asked why his parents were being ejected. The WALD HC then stated that he was then ejected.

The WALD HC and WALD AC felt that the game was getting out of hand which in turn made them feel that environment was no longer safe for his players. At about this time, another WALD parent yelled out a rude comment at the CR. This parent then turned around and walked directly to the parenting lot. This incident coupled with feeling that the game had gotten out of hand; the WALD HC made the decision to pull his team from the field.

The WALD HC made a sincere apology to the R&D Committee Member and to the referees for the behavior of his parents. He concluded by saying that he had played soccer and coached soccer for years and that he had walked away from a game. The WALD HC stated that the only option he had was to remove his players from a situation that he felt was unsafe.

The WALD Club Representative reported that their club censured all parents involved with a one game suspension.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The result of the match is annulled and shall be recorded as a forfeit, BAYS 3- WALD 0.
2. The Committee endorses the decision of WALD Soccer Club to suspend the parents involved for one game. The WALD parents are suspended for an additional match for a total of two matches.
3. The R&D Committee issues a one game suspension for WALD Parent C who was not ejected by the CR.
4. The WALD HC is placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of this season and the next season in which any team he coaches competes in the NCSL. The terms of this probation require the WALD HC maintain a completely satisfactory disciplinary record. Cautions and ejections in matches, supplemental reports from referees and comments on blue match cards, performance of Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL) duties, as well as enforcement of NCSL required player sit-outs, will all be evaluated to ensure that the terms of probation have been satisfied. Violation of the terms of probation may result in an R&D hearing on the breaching incident, and additional sanctions issued will take into account the violation of probation.
5. WALD is fined \$250 for failure to follow NCSL Rules & Procedures for the TSL. The fine must be received in the League office during normal working hours and no later than May 16, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

R&D Committee reiterated that referees are under no obligation to justify calls to Coaches, Players or Spectators.

#### **36. U14D5 - Protest of Game**

A protest was filed by the DSC Team based on FIFA LAW 7 - The Duration of the Match - "each half must be equal". The CR and AR were interviewed and both submitted reports. It has been concluded that the second half was indeed cut short without the agreement of both coaches.

#### Decision of the R&D Committee:

This match will be replayed in its' entirety.

#### **37. U13D1 - Alleged Spectator Misconduct**

From all statements gathered during the hearing from the CR, the TASC Team Officials and spectators, this Committee firmly believes the TASC parent/spectators violated the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct. The constant dissent by the TASC spectators directed at the CR, during the entire game and afterwards sends the wrong message to the players. This display of poor sportsmanship and verbal abuse towards the CR has no place in youth sports. Coaches and parents must be the role models for these young players.

The TASC spectators' behavior, especially at the end of the match was nothing less than egregious. Whenever a member of the officiating crew feels the need to have a police escort out of the park due to the conduct of the adults, is when all self control has been lost. It is alarming to this Committee that the police were called to both TASC games this particular weekend. The TSL for TASC did not fulfill his role and manage the spectator sideline well which contributed to the egregious conduct displayed.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. All spectators of the TASC team are banned from attending the next one (1) NCSL league game.
2. All TASC spectators are placed on R&D probation for the remainder of the Fall 2008 season.
3. The TASC team is fined \$250 for failure to comply with the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct and TSL Procedures.

### **38. U13D1 - Alleged Spectator Misconduct**

During the game between ONLY and TASC a foul occurred near the spectator's side of the pitch. The spectators from both teams got into a heated discussion and were getting very vocal. At this point the CR stopped play and asked the spectators to separate and remain apart for the remainder of the game. The arguing continued and someone called the Montgomery County police shortly before half time. The two officers stayed for the remainder of the match and no further incidents occurred.

Based on all the statements gathered during the hearing from the CR, ONLY Team Officials and spectators, and TASC Team Officials and spectators, this Committee firmly believes the ONLY and TASC parent/spectators violated the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct. A Committee member asked the CR if he thought it was necessary to have the police called. The CR stated he was thankful the police were there as it seemed to have a calming influence on the crowd.

Due to the aggressive behavior displayed by the spectators from both teams, a police presence was necessary to maintain control. This type of poor sportsmanship and lack of self-control has no place at a youth sport game. A spectator never has the right to yell at a child from the opposing team. This is an issue that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. All spectators of the ONLY and TASC are banned from attending the next (1) NCSL league game.
2. The ONLY and TASC teams are fined \$250 each for failure to comply with the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct.

### **39. U13D1 - Alleged Leader Misconduct**

The match was terminated in the 51<sup>st</sup> minute with LMVSC leading OBGC 1:0. After being warned on several occasions by the CR to "attend to his player", LMVSC HC continued yelling at the CR. LMVSC HC received a Red card and was ejected from the match for dissenting the CR's decision. The CR then asked LMVSC HC to leave the field of play multiple times. When this directive was not honored, the CR terminated the match.

The Committee firmly believes the LMVSC HC violated the Leaders Code of Conduct. Not only was the LMVSC HC argumentative after receiving a Red card, but he refused to leave the field of play despite several requests by the CR to do so. This is a situation that the Committee find egregious and will not tolerate. LMVSC HC demonstrated a lack of leadership.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded LMVSC 0 – ONLY 3.
2. LMVSC HC is suspended for a total of two (2) NCSL League matches.

### **40. U13D2 - Field Did Not Meet League Standards**

The match was played to completion with a score of BSU 6 – STER 1. Written statements were received from all parties. A hearing was held at the Westin Hotel on April 28, 2008. In attendance were the STER HC, STER TM, a STER affiliate, the BSU HC, BSU AC, BSU TM and BSU Club Representative.

The STER Team complaint alleged that the assigned field for match did not meet league standards as described in the NCSL Rules and Procedures manual.

When the CR arrived he checked the field for playability and saw a BSU affiliate sweeping water from a large puddle, approximately 15 x 20 feet in diameter, on the field with a push broom. A second and smaller mud puddle was also noted. The field was freshly lined and corner flags were in place, but the referee had safety concerns about the field due to the areas of standing water.

The adjacent field 2 was then examined and the CR asked the BSU affiliate to abandon his efforts on field 3, and sweep water from field 2 since the puddles were much smaller and would be easily cleared. After the puddles were swept, the CR determined that field 2 was in better condition than field 3, and was playable despite the fact that the lines were not as visible as those on field 3. Both the BSU HC and STER HC agreed to play on field 2, and cones were used to mark the four corners, the center line, the 18-yard line, and the 6-yard line. The game was started a few minutes late but was played on field 2 until half time.

Once the half time whistle was blown, one of the ARs informed the CR that another NCSL match was scheduled to begin play on field 2. At this point, the CR conferred again with the BSU HC and the STER HC. Since neither coach wanted to shorten the game, it was determined that the second half of game would be moved and played on field 3. The mud puddles were coned-off, and players were given two instructions: 1) do not follow the ball into the puddles, and 2) any ball landing in or traveling into the puddles would be considered a dead ball, requiring a game restart just outside the wet area. The game was played to conclusion on field 3 in accordance with these instructions.

At the hearing, it was established that the cones, which were physically located in the STER attacking side of play, constituted a 12<sup>th</sup> player for BSU and provided an unintentional advantage to the BSU Team. Since only the second half of the game was played in this manner, and teams were not equally disadvantaged by the placement of the cones, a second unintentional advantage was awarded to the BSU Team. Either, or both, advantage could have affected the outcome of the match. Another consequence of the placement of the cones on the field was that they altered the field's configuration by producing two voids, or missing sections.

The Committee notes that for a protest to be granted it: 1) must be submitted in accordance with NCSL procedures; 2) must allege a breach of NCSL rules or FIFA Laws of the Game; 3) must not be based on a judgment call of the referee; and 4) may have affected the outcome of the match. NCSL Rules and Procedures, Section III, *Field Standards*, and FIFA Law 1, *The Field of Play*, stipulate that the field of play must be rectangular. Further, the requirement of a rectangular field is not a rule subject to the judgment of match officials. While no provision is made for voids or missing sections of the field of play, the Committee finds violations to League rules and LOTG occurred.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is granted. The match result is annulled and the match will be replayed in its entirety.
2. The protest fee will be returned to the STER Team.

#### **41. U13D3 - Alleged Parent/Spectator Misconduct**

The game between SEVP and ABGC was a well played match. In the 50<sup>th</sup> minute, a parent kept yelling his protest to a non-call. In the opinion of the CR, the parent protest went beyond the tolerable level, so the CR stopped play to eject the parent. He called for both TSLs. Only the ABGC TSL approached the CR. He instructed the TSL to remove the parent from the field before the game could resume. The ABGC TSL went to find the SEVP TSL and inform her of the directive from the CR. The ejected parent, who was from SEVP, folded up his chair and threw it onto the pitch. Fearing for the safety of the officiating crew, the CR terminated the match in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute.

Written statements were received from all parties. The SEVP HC, AC, TM, and Club Commissioner and the ABGC HC, TM and TSL were in attendance at the hearing. The Committee was very disappointed the accused SEVP spectator was not present for the hearing. He did write a letter of apology which was submitted to the Committee. The egregious actions after the ejection are even more concerning to this Committee. The SEVP spectator, in frustration, folded his chair and threw it onto the field of play, completely disregarding the safety of the players and any spectator within close proximity. This appalling behavior will not be tolerated by this Committee.

The SEVP HC testified that he spoke with the spectator and he was indeed very remorseful for his actions. He indicated that he threw the chair out of frustration, not out of anger. The Club Commissioner also spoke on the spectator's behalf and agreed the parent was very contrite and this action was completely out of character. The club imposed a one game suspension for the spectator and asked him to read the Parent Tips from the Positive Coaching Alliance website.

The SEVP TSL failed in her responsibilities to control the spectator sidelines. Even after being summoned by the CR, no action was taken by the SEVP TSL to escort this spectator from the field, or calm him down. This most certainly led to the escalation of the chair being thrown and consequently, the termination of the match.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The match is declared a forfeit SEVP 0 – ABGC 3.
2. The SEVP spectator is suspended for a total of five (5) NCSL League matches.
3. The SEVP team is fined \$300 for failure to comply with the TSL Procedures as outlined in the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual.

#### **42. U13D6 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

The Committee commends and thanks the NCSL Co-Club Representative, CALV HC, CALV AC and CALV TM, as well as the CR, AR, OLNy HC and OLNy AC for attending this hearing to discuss these very serious allegations.

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing this Committee firmly believes that the CALV Team violated the above mentioned NCSL Rule. This is a situation that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate. This Committee firmly believes that the parents of the CALV Team behavior were extremely inappropriate.

The CALV Team Officials demonstrated a lack of leadership. In addition the parent's behavior of the CALV Team was egregious and will not be tolerated by the NCSL.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. This match shall be deemed a forfeit with the score of OLNLY 3 – CALV 0.
2. The CALV TMs may be the only team officials present in the Coaches Technical area for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season.
3. The CALV parents and their affiliates are banned from attending games for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season. Parents are to remain 100 yards of the playing field. This will include 30 minutes pre game and will continue 30 minutes post game. If any parent or their affiliates are within 100 yards of the game field, the game will be deemed a forfeit.
4. CALV HC is suspended for all NCSL activities for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season.
5. CALV AC is suspended for all NCSL activities for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season.
6. The CALV Team is fined \$500.00. This fine must be received in the NCSL office no later than May 23, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

**43. U12D1 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

“As a head coach, I understand I am responsible for the behavior of my teams' assistants, parents and fans at League games. I will show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that soccer is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.” The Committee appreciated receiving an e-mail from ASC Head Coach prior to the scheduled hearing. ASC Head Coach (exempted from the meeting) stated: “In regards to the Referees report from this match, as the Head Coach I do not dispute anything in the referees report. I am embarrassed and sorry that this event took place and I can assure you that it will not happen again. As a team our disciplinary record has been fantastic no player red cards ever, and as a coach in NCSL for over seven years I have never received a red card either. Once again I am sorry this incident took place and accept full responsibility for my assistant's actions and can assure you that this will not happen again.”

The Committee was very disappointed that the ASC AC did not attend the hearing or make any attempt to defend himself of the allegations made by the CR by either appearing in person or submitting a written report. His actions showed an egregious lack of respect.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. One game suspension for ASC HC due to the behavior of the ASC AC.
2. One game suspension (in addition to the suspension required for the Red Card) for the ASC AC.
3. The ASC Team is fined \$500.00 for the failure to appear for a mandatory NCSL R&D Hearing. The fine must be received in the league office during normal working hours no later than June 4, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

**44. U12D3 - Alleged Player Misconduct**

The NCSL received reports alleging a CALV player engaged in foul and abusive language towards the CR and then positioned himself ready to engage in violent physical misconduct.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The CALV Club has suspended the CALV player for three (3) NCSL league games.
2. The CALV Club President has spoken with the player about his actions, and has received a letter of apology from the player which will be forwarded to the referee.
3. The CALV Club President has also spoken with one of the coaches and requested that he review proper Code of Conduct with all of the players.

**45. U12D5 - Protest of Game**

BAC filed a protest claiming the dimensions of the pitch did not meet the requirements specified in the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual for the U12 age group.

NCSL Rules and Procedures, Section IX Rules of Play for NCSL Games, Fields: Any field accepted by the league is, by definition, acceptable for league play. Field and goal size will not be a matter of protest. Fields may be deemed unsafe by the referee.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied and game will not be replayed.
2. The \$200 Protest fee shall not be returned to BAC.

**46. U12D6 - Protest**

DCST team filed a protest based on the fact the referee only allowed 30 minutes halves in a U12 match. The rule for NCSL matches at the U12 level is 35-minute halves.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The decision is to uphold the protest based on Section IX Rules of Play for NCSL Games – Length of Games: U12 teams will play 35 minute halves
2. The game will be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety.
3. The \$200 Protest fee will be returned to DCST.

**47. U11D1 - Terminated Game/Alleged Spectator Misconduct**

The NCSL received reports alleging spectator misconduct and match termination. The match was terminated in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute with a score of NVSC 2 and GSC 9.

The GSC spectators were excessively loud and boisterous throughout the game, in particular when celebrating goals for their team. The CR approached the GSC HC to instruct him to calm his spectators. The spectators complied but as the lead widened, the GSC spectators became loud again. The tensions between the parents rose and verbal arguments and posturing began which led the CR to conclude the situation was out of control. The absence of an active TSL for both teams contributed to the situation.

Both teams were remorseful and apologized for this unfortunate incident. Each team also agreed to take the necessary steps to help educate the TSL of their assigned duties.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The score stands, NVSC 2 - GSC 9.
2. All spectators of the NVSC and all spectators of the GSC are banned from attending the next (1) NCSL league game.
3. The NVSC and the GSC are fined \$300 each for failure to comply with the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct and TSL Procedures.

**48. U11D1 - Protest of Game**

FASA protested the match because the father of a player from the visiting team, and who was a STAR referee, joined the assigned referee and together officiated the game using a two-man system.

Section IX Rules of Play for NCSL Games clearly states that U11 games will be officiated with one referee. The assigned referee may ask for volunteers from both teams to run the touchline and make in/out of play calls. STAR referees are not required for U11 games. In addition, a two-man system is not allowed in NCSL matches. Based on the CR's report, a STAR from VSA was used and together they applied the two-man system.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is upheld and the game will be replayed in its entirety.
2. The \$200 protest fee will be returned to FASA and the NCSL Administrator will reschedule the game.

**49. U11D2 - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

The Committee commends and thanks the SSA Team affiliates as well as the CR, for attending this hearing to discuss these very important allegations. Based on all statements gathered during the hearing this Committee firmly believes that the SSA HC was not in violation the above mentioned NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct. On the contrary, the SSA HC is to be commended for his exemplary behavior on and off the pitch. On the other hand, the Committee believes the SSA parents behaved poorly. This is an issue that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The SSA Parents are banned from attending games for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season. Parents are to remain 100 yards away from the playing field. This will include 30 minutes pre game and will continue 30 minutes post game. If any parent is within 100 yards of the game field, the game will be deemed a forfeit.

2. The SSA Team is fined \$250 for failure to comply with the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct and TSL Procedures. The fine must be received in the league office during normal working hours no later than June 4, 2008. Failure to meet this deadline will result in forfeitures until the fee is paid.

#### **50. U11D4 - Protest**

BSU filed a protest based on the fact the CR did not show a red card to any BSU team official before ejecting the BSU HC from the game, thus violating the NCSL Rules and Procedures, Section IX Rules of Play for NCSL Games, Showing Cards to Coaches.

Based on the CR and AR1's official match report, the Red Card penalty points will stand. It is important to note that additional censures could have been given once the BSU HC returned to the field of play at half time.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied and the penalty points will remain.
2. The BSU v VYS game will not be replayed.
3. The \$200 Protest fee shall not be returned to BSU.

#### **51. U11D6 - Protest**

The TAPK team filed a protest based on the CRs ruling related to an indirect free kick (IFK) and the final outcome of the game.

Based on the CR's statement, the player getting ready to take the IFK said that they (FRED) were too close. At that point, the CR stepped in to direct the FRED team to give the proper distance. During that time the TAPK player took the IFK. The CR stated that once the player asked for proper distance, he should not have taken the kick until he was given the signaled by the CR.

#### Decisions by the R&D Committee:

1. The game will stand as played.
2. The \$200 protest fee shall not be returned to the TAPK.

#### **52. U10DO - Protest of Game**

HERN alleges that the CR misapplied Laws 12 and 13 by awarding a free kick to the HERN team after a CYA player pushed the HERN player. The CR did not use any hand gestures in relation to the kick. The kick was taken and the ball was shot directly into the goal. As the teams were lining up for the kick-off, the CR notified both coaches that he made a mistake and it should have been an IFK. The CR then restarted play by awarding a DFK to the CYA team at the spot of the foul.

In this case, after the pushing foul was called the HERN team kicked the ball directly into the goal, but the CR said he made a mistake and it should have been an IFK, thus disallowing the goal. Law 12 clearly states "pushing an opponent" is rewarded with a DFK. The CR restarted play by awarding a DFK to the Chantilly team at the spot of the infringement thus misapplying Law 13.

When speaking with the CR, he stated that the HERN HC was correct with everything that he stated in his report. What was taken into consideration is: 1) the CR agreed with the written report of the HERN HC. 2) The players are 10 years old and they are still learning the game. 3) Without the CR's hand signal, which we all agree is not a mandate, after the "push" the players restarted the game with a Direct Free Kick. 4) It wasn't until after the players lined up thinking a goal was just scored by the HERN team that the CR paused and stated that the call should have been a dangerous play with a restart of an IFK and disallowed the goal. This was incorrect because a "push" restart is a DFK. 5) In this case, if the correct call was an IFK then the restart should be a Goal Kick. A DFK was given to the CYA team at the point of the infraction. 6) The CR admitted that he is a new referee and was doing the best he could. He admitted that he has learned from his mistakes and will do better in the future.

#### Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is upheld and the game will be replayed in its entirety.
2. The \$200 Protest fee shall be returned to HERN.

#### **53. U10DQ - Alleged Violation of NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct**

Based on all statements gathered during the hearing, the Committee firmly believes that the FREE HC was not in violation of the NCSL Leader's Code of Conduct. On the contrary, the FREE HC is to be commended for his exemplary behavior on

and off the pitch. On the other hand, the Committee believes the FREE Parent behaved beyond poorly. This is an issue that the Committee considers of great importance and will not tolerate.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The FREE Parent is suspended from attending matches for the remainder of the Spring 2008 season. If the FREE parent is found to have attended a match, that game shall be deemed a forfeit.
2. The FREE Parent is placed on R&D probation for one calendar year. Any incident involving unsporting behavior toward any match participant, as well as receiving a match caution or any ejection will result in automatic R&D review for additional sanctions.

**54. U10DS - Protest of Game**

It was alleged that the CR of this match was a relative of a player on the BAC Team. Once the BRYC Team Officials discovered that the CR was a parent of a player on the BAC Team, the BRYC Team Officials would not agree to the step in CR.

This decision is based in part on information collected at the hearing on May 8, 2008. Based on all statements gathered during this hearing, the Committee firmly believes that the BAC Team Officials and the CR that was a parent of a player on the BAC Team was simply following a directive, coupled with making every effort to ensure the match was played. It was apparent to the Committee that it was not the intention of the BAC Team or the parent referee to mislead or gain an advantage.

Decision of the R&D Committee:

This match shall be replayed in its entirety. BRYC will host the match.

**55. U10DX - Protest of Game**

ARL Team protests the outcome of match. The match did not start because, in the opinion of the referee, the field markings were not adequate. The match was declared a forfeit and the result was recorded as ARL 0 and WSC 3. ARL alleges the field was ready for play, with nets and flags in place, and had the referee brought the field markings to their attention only fifteen minutes earlier, the field could have been repainted in time to play the match.

Written statements were provided by ARL and the assigned CR. At noon, as the game was scheduled to begin, the CR made both team affiliates aware that the field markings were not sufficiently visible for him to call the game fairly and stated that unless the field was relined within 15 minutes, the game would be declared a forfeit for the home team. The CR expressed particular concern in regard to the lines of the goal boxes. The ARL HC and TM told the CR they could obtain paint and enhance the existing lines, but doubted they could perform the task within the 15 minutes the CR allotted and offered various alternatives.

In his report, the CR stated the pitch was not playable and at 12:15PM abandoned the match prior to kickoff. The Committee notes that referees do not have the authority to declare a match to be forfeited, only whether play should start and/or continue. The decision as to how a match result is recorded is made by the NCSL as the competition authority after reviewing the circumstances of the match. However, it is the responsibility of the home team to properly prepare the field for play as outlined in the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, Section X, Game Procedures, On Game Day: If nets and lines are not in place when the referee is ready to begin the game, the home team forfeits. There is no appeal.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is not valid. The match is declared a forfeit and the result will be recorded WSC 3 and ARL 0.
2. The \$200.00 protest fee will be returned to the ARL Team.

**56. U9DS - Alleged Parent/Spectator Misconduct**

The game between FASA and NVSC was tied 2-2. The CR ended the game at the expiration of time with the score tied 2-2 and FASA on the attack. After the whistle blew FASA put the ball in the net. The FASA coach was initially upset but once the CR spoke with him, they shook hands. His assistant did not accept the situation and began berating the CR. The CR then proceeded to the referee circle to collect his belongings. The FASA assistant approached the CR again and continued harassing him.

Written statements were received from all parties. The FASA HC and the CR were present at the hearing. During testimony it was discovered that the FASA assistant, was actually the trainer and parent of the team. This Committee firmly believes this spectator violated the NCSL Parent Code of Conduct and finds this type of behavior extremely inappropriate. The FASA HC testified that his TM and TSL were not at the game and he understands these two roles are very important and will do better to make sure these responsibilities are taken care at future matches.

The FASA spectator demonstrated a complete lack of leadership and poor sportsmanship. This Committee was extremely disappointed that the FASA spectator was not in attendance at this hearing. Furthermore, this Committee is concerned about the unhealthy environment this type of behavior creates and the impact it will have on such young players. The fact that the FASA spectator has been suspended from the FASA Club already for violating the club rules is cause for concern.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The FASA team is fined \$250 for failure to have a TSL and a TM at the game in question.
2. Embrace the two (2) game suspension imposed by the FASA team on the spectator.