



Player Discipline Policy

Policy Statement

The MSMSL goal is to provide a positive soccer experience for all stakeholders involved with the league. This policy has been created to ensure fair and just discipline throughout the Metro Senior Men's Soccer League with complete transparency to the process.

Disciplinary actions shall generally follow that as established by the Canada Soccer Association (CSA) and Soccer Nova Scotia (SNS). Teams playing in the MSMSL are aware that the discipline in this policy may exceed those recommended by the CSA or SNS, but as part of the membership to the league have agreed to abide by this policy.

Glossary of Terms

Area(s) of the soccer field means the actual field, player's bench, spectator seating, locker rooms, on site facilities, or parking lot area or within 100 feet of the fence surrounding the field.

Competition means each of a tournament, an exhibition game, a winter league season, a summer league season, league playoffs and a cup game;

Complainant means the person or organization that files a discipline complaint;

Discipline and Appeal Committee means a committee appointed by the Vice President pursuant to this policy to hear a discipline complaint or appeal;

League Official means, any member of the MSMSL executive, the scheduler, website administrator, treasurer, discipline committee member or other person(s) involved with league operations.

Misconduct means,

- An act described in the Standard Penalties
- Intentionally or recklessly disregarding the Bylaws or Policies or Procedures of CSA, SNS, or the MSMSL.
- Committing any act, making any verbal or written statement or being responsible for conduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter which is unsportsmanlike, insulting or likely to bring the game into disrepute;
- Committing a criminal offence or a breach of human rights;
- Assisting or permitting any act described above.

Probation Period means, the time in which a respondent must keep their record clean in regards to a category 2 Offense.

Respondent means, the person or organization that is the subject of a discipline complaint.



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Standard Penalties means the penalties for players, coaches or managers for the various offences as set out at the end of this section.

Serious Foul Play is the use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for the ball when it is in playing distance. An example would be an attacker dribbles to beats the defender; the defender grabs him and shoves him to the ground.

Team Official means, any coach, assistant, trainer, manager, or team contact that is registered as part of the team.

Written notice means notification to the team representatives via electronic mail using the email addresses provided as part of the team registration.

Violent Conduct is the use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball. An example would be an attacker shoots a ball out of bounds; the defender grabs him and shoves him to the ground.

Responsibilities

League

The Vice-President will be responsible for the Metro Senior Mens Soccer League (MSMSL) discipline or appeals. He shall act as chair or appoint a chair for any meetings conducted by the Discipline and Appeals Committee as per the MSMSL Discipline Policy.

The Vice President will provide direction to all MSMSL sanctioned Discipline and Appeals Committee, and should there be a conflict of interest in regards to any meting or possible outcome; the President shall take over that role in the interim or appoint a non-partial chair.

Teams/Players

Teams shall be responsible for:

- The tracking of the cards assigned to their players and follow up regarding suspension.
- The Reporting of Incidents
 - All incidents involving either a yellow or a red card shall be reported via the MSMSL website so they may be duly recorded within 48 hours.
 - Incidents that involve referee abuse (verbal or physical) or violent conduct shall be reported directly to the Vice President within 24 hours.

All players, coaches, team officials, are subject to discipline pursuant to this policy. Every team/club:

- is responsible for the action of its players, officials and spectators.



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- is required to take every precaution to prevent players, officials, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at competitions.

Discipline Committee

Formation

The Vice President shall seek out eight members of the league to serve on the Discipline and Appeals Committee for each league season (Season being from first game of regular play to end of play off competition).

The Vice President shall present the list on committee members to the MSMSL Executive for review and approval.

Should one of the members not meet the approval of the majority of the MSMSL Executive; the Vice President shall replace that member.

Purpose

The Discipline and Appeals Committee will be a Standing Committee of the Metro Senior Mens Soccer League (MSMSL) whose mandate includes, but is not limited to:

- appointing committees to hear:
 - discipline cases that are the exclusive jurisdiction of the Discipline and Appeals Committee
 - appeal of discipline decisions of hearing committees appointed by the Discipline and Appeals Committee

The Discipline Committee shall handle all disciplinary matters unless instructed otherwise by the governing body of Soccer Nova Scotia.

Jurisdiction

The Discipline and Appeals Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear complaints in the following circumstances:

- Misconduct towards any game official by any person involving deliberate contact, physical contact, attempted physical contact or threatening behavior;
- Misconduct involving violent conduct or serious foul play requiring a discipline hearing when the reportable incident
- Misconduct for which the standard penalties require a hearing before the Discipline and Appeals Committee
- Misconduct for which a team or player has violate league rules or the constitution.



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Filing of the Complaint

A Complaint of Misconduct may be made:

- For misconduct that occurs within a game, by a game official filing a Misconduct Report citing misconduct and the accompanying game sheet(s) with SNS and the MSMSL.
 - For misconduct resulting in a discipline hearing, the report shall be regarded as the report to the Discipline Hearing Committee.
 - The game official may but is not required to attend at any discipline hearing unless the Discipline Hearing Committee deems it necessary.
 - The decision of a game official pursuant to Law V, "Laws of the Games", is final.
- For all other acts of misconduct, by filing a written complaint of misconduct with Soccer Nova Scotia and the President of the League , within seven (7) days of the alleged occurrence. The written complaint shall contain a statement of the alleged facts and the relevant bylaw or policy allegedly breached.
 - Each complaint shall be accompanied by a \$275.00 fee payable to Soccer Nova Scotia in the form of a certified cheque or money order.
 - In the event the complaint is upheld, the fee is refundable.

The acts described in the Standard Penalties that do not require a discipline hearing shall result in the immediate implementation of the penalty, with notice to the player, coach or manager.

There shall be no appeal of a game official's decision to issue a card , except where it is alleged that the penalty is against the wrong player, and only if the issue is raised with the game official at the conclusion of the game.

Any misconduct that pursuant to the Standard Penalties requires a discipline hearing shall result in the immediate suspension from applicable soccer activities of the person(s) involved until such discipline hearing proceeding takes place. Immediate notice of such suspension shall be given to the Respondent by the MSMSL.

Disciplinary Process

Upon receiving a complaint, the Vice President shall promptly:

- Appoint a Discipline Hearing Committee having no less than three members, plus as Chair whom shall act as Recording Secretary.
 - A non-voting Recording Secretary (not one of the Committee) may be appointed and shall be present for the whole discipline discussion.
- Committee shall review the case with facts presented either in person or via other electronic forms of communication to see if more than the automatic standard penalty (and necessary seasonal occurrence) is all that is warranted.



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- If the committee agrees that only the automatic plus seasonal occurrence is suffice, chair shall notify the respondents and team representatives of the punishment, citing the number of games and reasoning.
- If the committee feels that the automatic plus seasonal occurrence is too harsh for the described incident, it must recommend that there be a hearing and forward the reasons to the hearing via the chair.
- If the committee agrees that more than the automatic plus seasonal occurrence is required, chair shall:
 - Schedule a date for the hearing of the complaint at a location at a location as determined by the Discipline Committee
 - Provide written notice of the hearing and a copy of the complaint to the Respondent and to the Complainant.
 - Written notice delivered to the team on which a player is registered shall be deemed 'due notice' to the player.
 - Appoint a new Discipline Hearing Committee having no less than three members, none of which were involved in the initial review, plus as Chair whom shall act as Recording Secretary.

In the event the Respondent does not attend the discipline hearing, the Discipline Hearing Committee may proceed with the hearing in his/her absence or may suspend the Respondent pending a further hearing.

Timelines and Notification

The Respondent or the Respondents registered team representative(s) shall be given at least ten (10) working days' notice of a discipline hearing.

The Complainant or Respondent may request the postponement of a discipline hearing by writing the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction at least five (5) working days prior to the date of the discipline hearing. The Committee may grant or refuse the request, at its discretion.

In cases where a Respondent stands suspended pending a discipline hearing, or for any adjourned discipline hearing, the date for the discipline hearing shall be set within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of the misconduct report (or previous discipline hearing).

The Discipline Hearing Committee may extend or abridge the time for any notice, date or decision in this section.

Hearing Procedure

Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to be present at the hearing.

The parties may be accompanied by legal counsel only with the permission of the Discipline Committee having jurisdiction or the Discipline Hearing Committee.



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- Subject to the foregoing, a governing body may be represented at the hearing by any member of its Executive.

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The discipline hearing shall proceed as follows:

- The Chair of the Discipline Hearing Committee shall read the report and state the complaint;
- The Complainant, if present, may amplify or qualify the complaint and call witnesses;
- The Respondent may make submissions on the report, testify on his/her own behalf and call witnesses.
- The Respondent and Complainant may ask questions of the other and their witnesses;
- Any Discipline Hearing Committee member may question the parties or any witness;
- The Complainant and the Respondent may make final summations before withdrawing;
- The Discipline Hearing Committee shall consider the report and any further evidence provided, and shall either decide the case at the hearing or adjourn to provide a written decision;
- The parties and affected club or competition shall be notified of the result in writing.
- All decisions are to be rendered by the Discipline Hearing Committee within fifteen (15) days of the discipline hearing unless an extension is granted. The failure of a Discipline Hearing Committee to render a decision within the time provided will not invalidate the proceedings.

Punishment

On misconduct being proven, a Discipline Hearing Committee shall, if applicable, order the punishment prescribed by the Standard Penalties, and otherwise have the power to order a suspension, and/ or fine, and/or any punishment that it deems just based on league set maximum added games/ administrative fines.

If a Discipline Hearing Committee would like to impose greater sanctions, a proposal would have to present to the MSMSL board of directors for a discussion and vote.

A Discipline Hearing Committee shall set timelines for the payment of any costs, fines or bonds, and may set further terms of punishment for noncompliance.

All suspensions referring to a number of games will be served in consecutive games played by the player's team, or as specified by the Discipline Hearing Committee.

All suspensions referring to a period of time (days, weeks, months, years) will be served from the time of the offence, or as specified by the Discipline Hearing Committee



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Serving of Penalties

Unless otherwise decided by a Discipline Hearing Committee, or specified in the Standard Penalties, all suspensions resulting from player-related incidents shall be from playing in all soccer competitions within the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia.

A Discipline Hearing Committee may, however, suspend any player, coach or team official from any or all soccer competition related activities within the jurisdiction of Soccer Nova Scotia, should they feel it is.

Offences falling under sections of the Standard Penalties which occur in the final game of a tournament, or in an exhibition game, shall be referred to the League in which the player's registered team normally competes, and the League shall deal with any such misconduct as if it occurred in that League.

Where a player receives cards or other suspensions for misconduct while playing on a team other than his/her registered team, such cards or suspensions apply to his/her registered team division, and she/he cannot play for any other team in any other competition until any suspensions resulting from such cards or actions has been served with his/her registered team.



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Discipline Tables (Player)

Note that all suspensions are listed as the amount of games, unless otherwise noted.

Cautions

<i>Cautions in single game</i>	<i>Automatic</i>
First Caution of the season	N/A
Second Caution of the season	N/A
Third Caution of the season	1
Fourth Caution of the season	N/A
Fifth Caution of the season	2
Sixth Caution of the season	3
Seventh and any subsequent caution of the season	5

Double Cautions

For the purposes of counting yellow and red cards, two yellow cards received in the same game are to be counted as one red, not as two yellows. These shall be officially recorded as red (ejections) on the MSMSL website.

Second ejection of the season for any reason will result in and automatic 1 game added to the punishment of the ejection.

Third ejection of the season for any reason will result in and automatic 3 games added to the punishment of the ejection. Player would also have a hearing scheduled for receiving three ejections in a calendar year

Second cautions in single game	Automatic
Dismissed for "receiving a second caution in the same game with neither caution for dissent.	1
Dismissed for "receiving a second caution in the same game with one caution for dissent.	2
Dismissed for "receiving a second caution in the same game with both cautions for dissent.	3



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Red Card Offences

Second ejection of the season for any reason will result in and automatic 1 game added to the punishment of the ejection.

Third ejection of the season for any reason will result in and automatic 3 games added to the punishment of the ejection. Player would also have a hearing scheduled for receiving three ejections in a calendar year.

Maximum game added refers to the maximum number of games that the discipline committee may add to the automatic suspension. Maximum admin fee refers to the maximum administration fee that the discipline committee may add to the punishment.

If a Discipline Hearing Committee would like to impose greater sanctions, a proposal would have to present to the MSMSL board of directors for a discussion and vote.

Red Card Offences	Automatic	Hearing Requirement	Max Game Added	Max Admin Fee
Dismissed for Red Card offences (except as noted below)	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dismissed for "Using discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, or otherwise defamatory language and/or gestures" directed at anyone other than the game official(s)	10	Automatic	50	\$500
Dismissed for "Using discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, or otherwise defamatory language and/or gestures" directed at the game official(s)	12	Automatic	60	\$600
Dismissed for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at anyone other than the game official(s)	2	Review	10	\$100
Dismissed for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at the game official(s)	4	Review	20	\$200



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Red Card Offences	Automatic	Hearing Requirement	Max Game Added	Max Admin Fine
Persisted in “using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures” directed at a game official(s) after having been dismissed for such action that is directly in the area(s) of the soccer field.	4	Automatic	20	\$200
Returned to the area(s) of the soccer field at any point including after the final whistle after having been dismissed to confront anyone other than the game official(s).	4	Automatic	20	\$200
Returned to the area(s) of the soccer field at any point including after the final whistle after having been dismissed to confront the game official(s)	8	Automatic	40	\$400
Dismissed for “Serious Foul Play”	2	Review	10	\$100
Dismissed for spitting at an opponent or any other person	8	Automatic	40	\$400
Dismissed for “Violent Conduct”.	3	Review	25	\$250
Game Official Assault (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening behavior.	10	Automatic	50	\$250
Game Official Assault for deliberate physical contact (striking, spitting, kicking), or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct.	20	Automatic	100	\$500



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Other Offences

Category 1

Category 1 offences are those that are not directly game related.

Category 1 Offences	Automatic	Hearing Requirement	Max Game Added	Max Admin Fine
Acted in a threatening manner and/or use defamatory language against a league official	5	Automatic	25	\$250
Received a third dismissal within a 12 month period	3	Review	N/A	\$50
Failed to attend a discipline hearing after previously agreeing to attend	3	Automatic	6*	\$150

For the offence of “Failed to attend a discipline hearing after previously agreeing to attend”, the respondent is suspended until the respondent requests and attends a disciplinary hearing, and automatically charged \$150.00 administration fee.

Category 2 Offences

Category 2 offences are those that are not directly game related, but are considered severe, and have a probation period attached to them. Violating these offences before the probation period has taken place will result in additional punishment with each reoccurrence.

The probation period begins once the suspension has been served.

Category 2 Offences	1st Offence		2nd Offence		3rd and Subsequent Offences		Max Game Added	Max Admin Fine
	Automatic	Probation Period	Automatic	Probation Period	Automatic	Probation Period		
Played as an ineligible player	20	6 Months	40	1 Year	80	2 Years	40	\$250
Participated in a soccer activity from which he/she was suspended	1 Year	1 Year	2 Years	2 Years	5 years	5 Years	N/A	\$500
Intentionally acted in a manner deemed to be detrimental to the game	10	6 Months	20	1 year	40	2 Years	50	\$500