



Officiating Reporting Policy

Policy Statement

The MSMSL goal is to provide a positive soccer experience for all stakeholders involved with the league. Even with trained game officials, there are sometimes less than acceptable officiating occurrences that need to be addressed formally and in a timely manner by the league. The MSMSL is committed to hearing, investigating and ensuring proper action is taken in the event of such an occurrence. The MSMSL is also committed to identifying officials whom are exceptional in their field.

The MSMSL strongly believes that this process regarding compliments and complaints for officials of our matches will be a great tool for our referee associations to identify top performers, identify weaknesses in training, correct issues, identify mentoring opportunities and discipline offenders.

Glossary of Terms

Game Officials – Officials assigned to apply the Laws of the game as prescribed by FIFA as well as CSA, SNS, and the MSMSL rules.

Complainant levels

- **Major** shall be defined as the following:
 - *Use of offensive, insulting or abusive towards a participant including gender base, racist or sexist remarks.*
 - *Made deliberate physical contact or attempted to make deliberate physical contact towards a participant in the form of pushing, grabbing, charging or pulling.*
 - *Makes threats of physical contact.*
 - *Performs violent conduct in the form of kicking, spitting, or striking; also attempts to perform violent conduct.*
 - *Officiates game under the influence of an intoxicating substance.*
- **Medium** shall be defined as the following:
 - *Failure to submit a discipline report in a timely manner (league)*
 - *Failure to submit a special incident report in a timely manner(league)*
 - *Failure to show up to an assigned match.*
 - *Acted in a confrontational manor.*
 - *Failure to adequately engage in the play of the game due to fitness level or lack of interest.*
- **Minor** shall be defined as the following:
 - *Showing up to a game after kickoff*
 - *Failure to report a disciplinary action on a game sheet*
 - *Failure to correctly report scores*
 - *Complaints about knowledge of the laws of game or perceived skill level.*
- **Unfounded** shall be defined as *no evidence that complaint is valid.*
- **Compliment** shall be defined as *positive experience with the officiating.*



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Procedure

Submitter

The submitter must be one of the four listed team officials as registered at the beginning of each season with the MSMSL. Only listed team officials may submit either compliments or complaints.

The submitter must use the MSMSL Officiating Compliment and Complaints Form. must provide as much detail on this Form so that the MSMSL can direct any compliments, issues or concerns to the appropriate Referee Association representative or referee coordinator.

Responses will only be given to *complete* submissions received via the official from a registered team official. Submissions will only be accepted after at least 48 hours has past and no more than 72 hours after the game or incident. Correspondence not received using this Form or from a designated team representative will not be addressed.

Send the official form by EMAIL to the vice president who will investigate the incident and acknowledge the receipt of the form. The listed representative/ complainant may be contact further follow-up if required.

Reviewer

The reviewer shall generally be the vice president of the MSMSL. Should there be a conflict of interest, the reviewer shall be designated by the MSMSL president.

At no time shall the submitter or their team be identified in any correspondence with a referee association in regards to a complaint or compliment; this is paramount to the success of the process as the anonymity allows for the submitter and their team to neither gain a positive or negative benefit from the submission.

Reviewer shall upon receipt of the official form:

- acknowledge the submission within 72 hours of receipt of the form.
- review the submission to verify time lines and eligible submitter criteria.
- Collect any other information required including discipline reports, game sheets and opposing team comments (should it be a major complaint).
- Assign an incident number to the form. Numbers shall be as follows:
 - XYY-NNN
 - Example S16-001
 - Where X is S for summer; W for winter
 - Where YY is for season year date.
 - Where NNN is for the sequential number.
- Review the form in its entirety to determine whether it is a complaint or compliment.

Compliments

If a compliment has been received, the reviewer shall submit in a timely manner the following to the referee association:

- Rough date of the game in which the compliment was received (example first week of April).
- The official being complimented.



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- The submitters comments regarding the event (or a paraphrase of the comments) excluding team and player names.

Complaints

If a complaint has been received, the reviewer shall:

- Review the incident to determine if more information is required.
- Gather additional information.
- Determine the severity of the incident (based on definitions)
- Severity of incident shall be assigned a number.
 - Major =5
 - Medium= 2
 - Minor = 1

Once an official reaches a total count of five (5), the reviewer shall submit in a timely manner the following to the referee association:

- Rough date of the game(s) in which the complaint(s) was/were received (example first week of April).
- The official which is involved
- The submitters comments regarding the event (or a paraphrase of the comments) excluding team and player names.

Reviewer shall keep a record of incidents and resulting points for review at MSMSL executive level, as well as, to presented to the referee association(s) at the end of each season.