

NPSL Discriminatory and Foul Language Policy

The NPSL (North Puget Sound League) believes there is no place for racism or any form of verbal abuse and disrespect. While we believe competition is the catalyst for many life skills, we are witnessing in our league, harm that some participants – players, coaches, and parents – inflict on others whether intentionally or not.

The NPSL has no tolerance for such behavior and has established a Racial Abuse Policy to support disciplinary decisions related to not only racist behavior and language, but any form of prejudice or discrimination.

DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSIONS DUE TO RACIST OR BIGOTED LANGUAGE OR ACTION

Should the NPSL receive a report of offensive, abusive, or insulting language that includes racism or bigotry, the player/coach/parent will be immediately suspended (2) games. This suspension is in addition to that imposed by the Washington Youth Soccer Judicial Guidelines for a misconduct (send-off) outlined below:

- Two (2) games if language is not directed at a person.
- Three (3) games if language is directed at another person. It will cover the following; player, spectator, referee or coach.

The Disciplinary Committee or Board also reserves the right to add additional game suspensions, or possible expulsion from participation in the NPSL and its functions, should the Committee feel that extenuating circumstances warrant such an outcome.

These decisions may be appealed, and a hearing requested, per the Disciplinary guidelines appellate process.

IN-GAME PROCEDURES FOR A REPORT OF RACIST OR BIGOTED LANGUAGE/ACTION

Scenario #1

If a player or coach reports racist or bigoted behavior to the referee, the following is the procedure that should be followed in-game:

- Game immediately suspended
- Both teams sent to respective benches
- Coaches meet with referee to confirm and discuss
- Coaches meet with their individual teams to address the behavior and reminded of league policy.

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- Match resumes if agreed upon by both teams and coaches
- If the match is not resumed, then the score will be recorded as it stands regardless of time of match
- Report filed by both coaches with NPSL Disciplinary Committee

Scenario #2

If a referee, or assistant referee hears, or can confirm racist or bigoted language from a match participant (player, coach, or spectator), the following procedure should be followed:

- Red card issued immediately to offending participant, and participant suspended from all league functions as outlined in the policy (should the participant be a coach or spectator, participant is suspended for all league activities pending a hearing with the Disciplinary Committee)
- Offending participant's club must write a formal letter to the NPSL Disciplinary Committee outlining steps taken and any additional corrective action taken

REPEAT OFFENSES

Any participant, whether player, coach, or spectator, found to be a repetitive offender of racist, bigoted, or abusive language may be banned from the NPSL indefinitely. This includes individuals who have previously been disciplined under this policy and continue to exhibit harmful behavior. The safety and integrity of our league are paramount, and we are committed to maintaining a space free of hate and discrimination.