

NYSWYSA
2nd Vice President's Report
2008-2009 Seasonal Year

RED CARD SUSPENSIONS

In August 2009 the NYSW Board of Directors changed their previous definition of "level of competition" as related to red card sanctions. Effective immediately, the change will remove initial matches in the National Championship Series / State Cup (Series) from those matches considered as satisfying the one match suspension as required by FIFA for having earned a red card in a league, friendly or tournament match. This definition change does not affect the National ruling that all sanctions earned during the course of the National Championship Series must be served within that Series, and if not served will carry over to successive years in the Series.

A red card earned during a league, friendly or tournament match will cause the suspension to be served in the next match at that level of competition in which the player would have participated. Simply put, if a player earns a red card while playing with their primary pass, they miss the next match (excluding that of the National Championship Series) in which they would have participated using that primary pass. If they earn the red card using a secondary (yellow) pass, or if they earn a red card while in a recreational match, they sit the next match at those levels of play.

Following a player's one-match suspension, that player is then again eligible to participate, excepting if a club or League has stricter sanctions (2 or 3 matches required to be missed for example), those incremental sanctions may be imposed and participation denied within those matches for which the Club or League has authority. As an example, if a League has a 3 game suspension policy for a red card, then a player must sit all three matches before they are eligible to participate in that League. However, once a player has missed their first (next) match, they are again eligible to participate in matches outside of that League, such as intra-club friendlies or tournaments, but when returning to League play must sit the remainder of their suspension(s) before being eligible for participation within that League.

ADJUDICATIONS

The 2008-2009 year was a more active year than the previous in reference to adjudication matters.

Hearings were held and/or decisions rendered relative to:

- Risk Management passes being suspended or revoked due to actions deemed inappropriate.
- Multiple instances of referee abuse and/or assault
- Zero Tolerance Policy infractions

There were no appeals to USSF of any NYSW rulings made during the seasonal year. No appeals from previous seasonal years are pending.

In addition, various resolutions were reached or are pending at several local and club levels related to coaching assignments, disagreements related to player movement / team assignment, and/or monies due by departing players.

The teleconference-based method of holding hearings and recording the hearing itself, initially implemented on a trial basis in 2006, was further refined and has worked well again this year. Given the four-year period with no major concerns being presented, a new procedure describing the teleconference method will be written and incorporated into the next revision of the Adjudication Manual.

The Association still desires volunteers from each of the Districts for participation on hearing panels. Please contact either the State Office or the 2nd V.P. if interested.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ACTIONS

Following the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy by NYSWYSA, several allegations were received and rulings made relative to infractions of the Policy. Adjudication under the Zero Tolerance Policy (ZTP) is similar to that as resulting from allegations of referee assault and/or abuse, including rights to a hearing or rights of appeal. Specific guidance as to resolution of these infractions will be written into the next revision of the Adjudication Manual. NYSWYSA appreciates the support of the various clubs and Leagues as related to the Association Policy, and is further appreciative of the number of Clubs and Leagues that have implemented or strengthened their own in-house policies.

RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In cases where the intervention of the 2nd VP was requested, assistance relative to Risk Management actions was provided in several cases. This assistance was provided by way of research and provision of cases demonstrating precedence, support of multiple Risk Management denials, provision to Clubs and Officers education as to the Risk Management program and matters of potential liability, and support of Risk Management pass suspensions due to pending litigation.

REFEREE CONTRACT (STATE CUP)

Negotiations have been initiated relative to upcoming contracts with the referee association for referee support of the 2010 and beyond National Championship Series. The 2nd VP is a member of the NYSWYSA Negotiating Team.

EMPLOYEE APPRAISALS - SENIOR STAFF

The 2nd VP of NYSWYSA has again assumed the lead for senior employee staff appraisals. Appraisals incorporate performance reviews against prior year objectives, provide definable and measurable goals and objectives for the year ahead, and also provide a mechanism for employee development. In applicable cases, special evaluations and intermediate appraisals are also provided.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT – CLUBS AND PLAYERS

Administrative support, involving the assurance of consistent and defensible actions and decisions across multiple Districts was again rendered this year in multiple instances. Actions may include situations where players leave Teams or Clubs with outstanding financial obligations, disagreements arising related to coaching opportunities and selections, team/division placement of players, and player transfers (voluntary and involuntary). Additionally, advisement is offered to clubs and academies related to coaching recruitment and selection, use of State Coaches to supplement their training activities, implementation of various policies including Risk Management and incorporation or strengthening of new or existing Zero Tolerance Policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Dimas
NYSWYSA 2nd Vice President
NYSWYSA Adjudication Chairman