

Assistance for Referees making accusations of Assault or Abuse

Please read and keep this information. Please read and keep any information sent to you. The Discipline and Appeals Policy is also found at www.oysan.org.

Definitions of Referee Assault and Abuse from the USSF Policies:

- (1) (A) (i) *Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.*
(ii) *For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.*
- (B) *Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.*
- (2) (A) *Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.*
- (B) *Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.*
- (C) *Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece," shall be deemed referee abuse.*

If you are not sure if the act meets the definitions above, contact the state office at 330-659-0989. You may also find it very helpful to contact the SRA, Mark DelCorral at 440- 555-1212.

- Hearings are very formal. Be prepared to present the case including eyewitnesses. You are to be present during the entire hearing (as is the accused) and to question other witnesses. All participants are excused for the deliberation.
- Only the accused has the right to appeal.
- A parent or guardian must accompany all minors. This includes the referee, the accused or ANY witness, if the person has not reached his/her 18th birthday.
- All witnesses must be eyewitnesses to the incident. (Character witnesses are not permitted)
- Only "official" people can be charged. An official person is someone whose name is on a roster or league list: player, coach, manager, board member, and official volunteer. If a referee believes she or he is assaulted by someone other than an "official" person, (such as a parent), we recommend that the referee contact the police. Leagues, if notified by you of the incident, may choose to hold a hearing for parents. Parents are not permitted to appeal to the state association or beyond.
- The report must be timely. 48 hours is considered an adequate time to send your report to the state office. A delay in the report may result in the case not being heard.
- You may challenge someone on the hearing panel as being biased. The person can choose to be excused, the chair can excuse the person, or the person can be retained if you do not prove the conflict of interest

- You must present your list of witnesses to the OYSAN Executive Director or her designee at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
- You are entitled to have an advisor or representative. This person cannot speak publicly including give testimony; question a witness or the panel. This person can speak only to you. You may request a break in order to speak privately with the representative.
- Only testimony of persons present can be considered. It is your responsibility to make sure your witnesses are present. A person can “testify” by telephone since they can be questioned by the accused party; however, the hearing cannot be held up, delayed or postponed due to problems with the telephone.
- All witnesses must present identification.
- You are given the right to speak first and present the case first, and are the last to speak prior to deliberations.

Hearings are very costly in terms of time and effort by the state, the panel, the accused and witnesses. Do not hesitate to report a situation, but be sure you can prove your case. The OYSAN Executive Director can serve as an adviser to you about the process of the hearing. You may contact her about a situation, whether it meets the criteria or now for a hearing, prior to filing a report. Realize that the Executive Director can advise the accused about the same hearing procedures.

For the most comprehensive information about the Disciplinary or Appeals Process or the Hearing Process, please refer the Discipline and Appeals Policy online at www.oysan.org

Referral to the Ohio Youth Soccer Association North Referee Assault and/or Abuse

Within 48 hours of the incident, please send the form to Kay Catlett by fax followed by the original form sent by mail. Fax 330-659-0993, Mail: Kay Catlett, Box 367, Richfield, OH 44286. The form must have a signature. The game report and eyewitness statements may also be sent.

Note: OYSAN will hold a formal hearing on the charge of referee assault and/or abuse; however, OYSAN is the neutral arbiter, and does not "prosecute" the case. The referee must present testimony, written report, and present witnesses. All information on the hearing will be sent to all parties prior to the hearing.

Name of Referee: _____ Telephone Day _____
Address: _____ Telephone Night _____
City, State Zip _____ E-Mail Address _____

This is an accusation of _____ Referee Abuse
_____ Referee Assault
_____ Both or not sure

At the time of the incident, I had reached my 18th Birthday: ____yes ____no

Name of Accused: _____ **Team Age** _____ **Gender** _____
League of Accused: _____ **Circle: Coach** **Player** **Administrator**

Match between teams _____ vs _____
Held on: Date: _____ Time of start of match: _____ Was game completed?: _____
Location: _____

I realize that USSF has specific definitions for "Assault" and "Abuse" and these charges must meet the criteria prior to a hearing being scheduled. I also realize that I must present the case, call witnesses (if available), and can question the accused and his/her witnesses, and that I can be questioned. I realize I can bring a representative who can advise me, but cannot speak at the hearing. I realize I am permitted to have as witnesses only those who personally witnessed the event and that character witnesses are not allowed.

I realize the person I accuse can be suspended for a short or long period of time, fined or receive a combination of both. I realize the accused, if found to have committed assault or abuse, is permitted to appeal the decision of OYSAN to USSF.

I am enclosing a complete game report and any other statements from eyewitnesses that I have who will testify. I realize that written testimony will be accepted only if the witness is available to testify at the hearing.

I realize that if I am a minor or have a minor as a witness, at least one parent/guardian MUST be present with my witness or me.

I have notified the State Referee Administrator of the incident. ____Yes ____No

Signature of Referee _____ Date _____
For office use only: Received date _____ by _____