

Thurston County Youth Soccer Association Judicial Process

Updated January 2024

Thurston County Youth Soccer Association (TCYSA) follows the principles and practices contained in the Washington Youth Soccer Judicial and Ethics Committee (JEC) Process and Procedures Manual.

A summary is set out below.

TCYSA has established a Disciplinary Committee under article 7.2.1 (a) of its bylaws. The Chair of the Disciplinary Committee will decide how disciplinary issues, whether arising from referee actions, spectator/coach complaints or club/association observed behavior, will be handled. They may refer such decisions to the Disciplinary Committee in significant cases.

All persons on the team roster (coaches, managers and players) may be cautioned or sent-off/ejected by the referee. For red card offenses the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee may apply the sanctions contained in JEC Procedure 4P, up to the maximum level permitted. If there are, in the Chair's judgment, extenuating circumstances, they may convene a Disciplinary Committee meeting to review the circumstances and consider appropriate action. A Disciplinary Committee may be convened, at the discretion of the Chair, for issues arising at events where no red card was issued. For red card offenses the Disciplinary Committee may impose a sanction to the maximum permitted under the guidelines contained in JEC Procedure 4P.

Any person in receipt of a red card may request a meeting with the Disciplinary Committee. The Committee may permit, but is not required to permit, the subject of the meeting to attend and be heard. A sanction greater than the guidelines in JEC Procedure 4P may only be imposed by the Disciplinary Committee after a hearing to which the subject has been invited to attend. A player under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

TCYSA has adopted the provisions of Washington Youth Soccer's points' accumulation policy as set out in JEC Procedure 4P.

Red card offenses attract, under WYS guidelines, a minimum suspension of one game, unless successfully appealed. All decisions of the TCYSA Disciplinary Committee Chair and all decisions of the Committee (where convened) will be communicated to the subject by email as quickly as possible (typically within 48 hours of the decision). The decision will be copied to the club and TCYSA Director of Competition.

TCYSA has committed to the following operating procedures to ensure fairness to all participants.

- (a) Letters/emails/reports received from spectators alleging unacceptable behavior on the part of other participants (players, coaches, managers, spectators) will be treated as confidential and will not be provided to the subject(s) of the complaint. TCYSA will, where deemed appropriate, provide such material to the relevant club to facilitate corrective action. If a hearing is convened to deal with such matters the subject matter of the complaints will be communicated to the alleged offender(s), but TCYSA is not required to provide copies of such material to the latter.
- (b) A referee is required to file a report of each caution and ejection within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.

- (c) Referee reports will not be provided to coaches or players. A coach or player who requests a hearing to appeal a red card may have sight of the referee report at the hearing but may not take a copy of the report. TCYSA will provide, on a confidential basis, electronic copy of referee reports to relevant clubs.
- (d) All those in receipt of material covered by this policy (e.g. referee reports, emails etc.) are bound by the confidentiality requirements of this policy. This includes people acting on behalf of TCYSA or any club. Breaches of this policy may, at the discretion of the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee, be subject to disciplinary process.
- (e) Offenses involving abuse of referees will be sent to WYS for consideration. TCYSA reserves the right to take action in such cases notwithstanding the referral to WYS.
- (f) Coaches or players who post copies of Disciplinary Committee documentation (including decision letters, referee reports etc.) in public places, including limited access locations (both physical and electronic) may be sanctioned for bringing the game into disrepute.
- (g) All decisions of the TCYSA Disciplinary Committee and its Chair may be appealed to the TCYSA Board of Directors or WYS per the JEC. A request for an appeal must be submitted within 48 hours of the decision using the appropriate appeal form. The TCYSA Board will convene a special meeting within 10 days of the request for appeal to consider the appeal. The special meeting may be held virtually.
- (h) TCYSA reserves the right to refuse admission to its leagues any team which, in the view of the Director of Competition and the Disciplinary Committee Chair, is not appropriately managed to meet the standards of behavior expected by the association. TCYSA also reserves the right to remove any team, without financial refund, for good cause. TCYSA expects that clubs will cooperate with the association to ensure that the provisions of this clause do not need to be invoked.