
Fall 2025 Travel Director Meeting



Essex County Youth Soccer Association



Agenda

- Welcome
- Fall season reminders
- Sportsmanship Statement
- 531-9
- Derogatory Language Policy
- New Referee Fees '25-26
- Reschedule Procedure
- Questions/Comments

Important Dates 2025

ECYSA Fall 2025 Season Dates

- **Start Date: September 6th**
- **No games October 11th – Holiday Weekend**
- **Final week – November 1st**



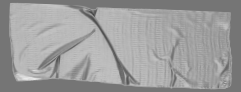
— Sportsmanship Statement Procedure

After all pre-game activities are complete, both teams and the referee crew will line up at the Half Way Line of the Coaches Sideline.

Led by officials, all players and coaches will walk across the field and line up facing spectators, 5 yards from the sideline.

The Sportsmanship Statement will be read by a representative of the Home team to all coaches, players and spectators.

Following the reading of the script, players will perform a pre-game handshake. (Home team to walk down the line of Away Team). After the pre-game handshake, all players and coaches will return to benches and starting players will assume positions on the field of play.



Sportsmanship Statement

All participants deserve the right to play in an environment free from hostile and distracting behavior.

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated, the game may be stopped and sanctions applied for violations of policy or codes of conduct.

Please enjoy the game and do your part to create a positive soccer experience for all.



PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(*) Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **“minor multiplier” resulting in triple punishment**
- One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.

Derogatory Language Policy

ECYSA adopts the Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines, as promulgated by Mass Youth Soccer.

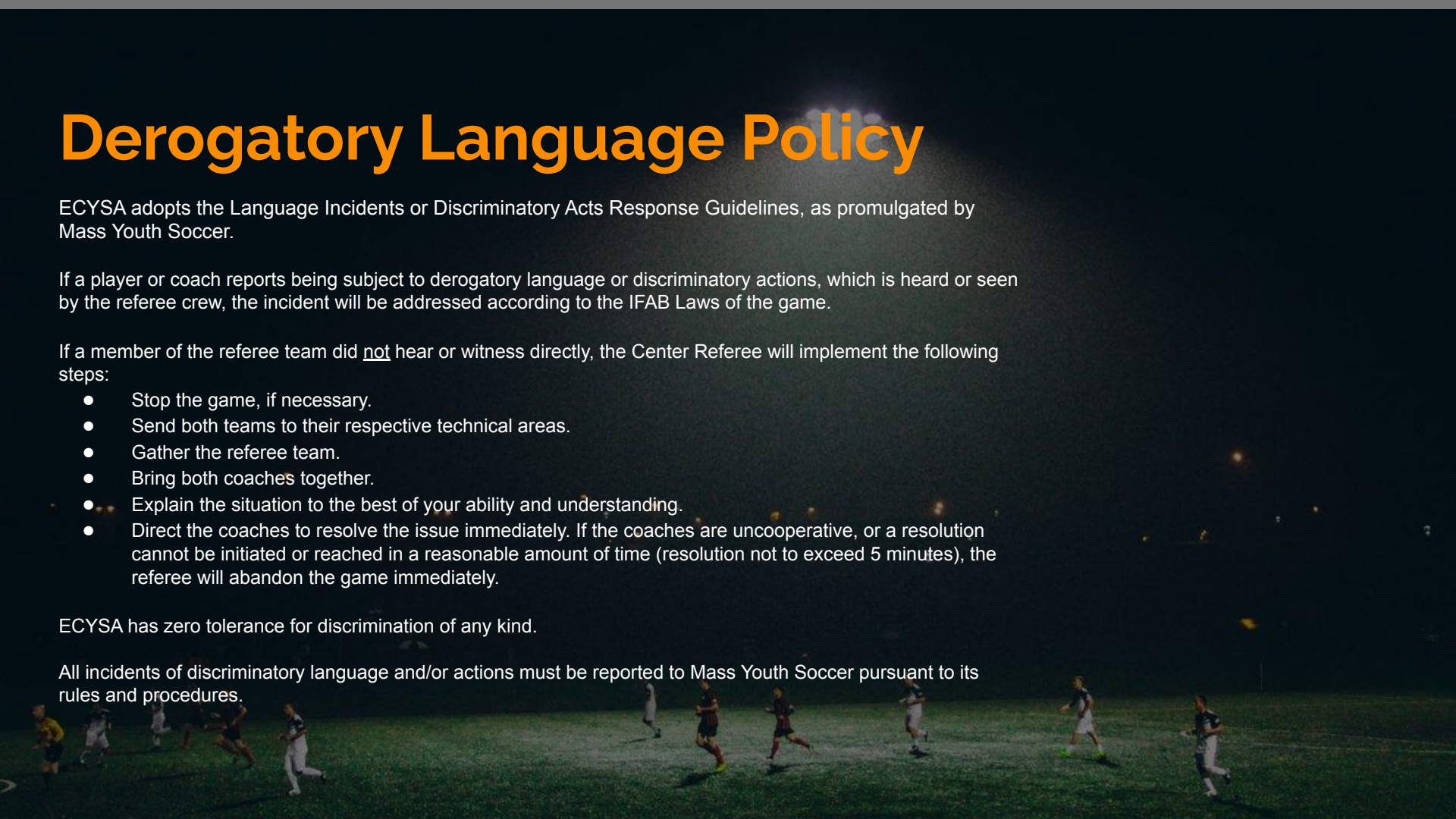
If a player or coach reports being subject to derogatory language or discriminatory actions, which is heard or seen by the referee crew, the incident will be addressed according to the IFAB Laws of the game.

If a member of the referee team did not hear or witness directly, the Center Referee will implement the following steps:

- Stop the game, if necessary.
- Send both teams to their respective technical areas.
- Gather the referee team.
- Bring both coaches together.
- Explain the situation to the best of your ability and understanding.
- Direct the coaches to resolve the issue immediately. If the coaches are uncooperative, or a resolution cannot be initiated or reached in a reasonable amount of time (resolution not to exceed 5 minutes), the referee will abandon the game immediately.

ECYSA has zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind.

All incidents of discriminatory language and/or actions must be reported to Mass Youth Soccer pursuant to its rules and procedures.



Reschedule Process – Fall 2025

Eligible Reschedules

- School (curricular) / Religious Exemptions
- Midweek Reschedules
- Coach Agreed Reschedules

Updates to School / Religious / Midweek Reschedules

School / Religious / Midweek Reschedule Request Changes:

- Requesting TD to submit reschedule with new date / time (has ability to select home or away resource)
- Deadline to submit no later than the Sunday before kick-off (11:59PM)

Process / Workflow:

- Requesting Team TD submits request with mutually agreed rescheduled date / time / resource
- ECYSA will review request and approve / deny based upon reschedule criteria
- If ECYSA Approves; submission is sent to opposing TD to approve / deny reschedule date / time only
- If Opposing TD approves, schedules updated to reflect new reschedule date
- If Opposing TD denies, request sent back to ECYSA to override date / time once teams agree to reschedule date
- If a reschedule date is not agreed upon within 7 days of ECYSA approval, ECYSA sets the date
- If ECYSA denies request, game is to be played as scheduled or seek new Coach Agreed Reschedule



Coach Agreed Reschedule



Coach Agreed Reschedule

- Coaches of given game agree to reschedule and determine a mutually agreed upon reschedule date / time
- **Requesting Coach's TD** to submit reschedule with new date / time (has ability to select home or away resource)
- Deadline to submit no later than the **Sunday** before kick-off (11:59PM)
- New Fee Applied to **requesting** team's town organization for reschedule
- Rescheduled game to be played even if referee is not assigned

Process / Workflow

- **Requesting Team TD** submits reschedule with updated date / time / resource
- Opposing TD reviews request and approves / deny within 48 hours of submission
- If Opposing TD approves, sent to ECYSA to approve and schedules updated
- If Opposing TD denies, game to be played as scheduled; can be resubmitted
- Any reschedule of a reschedule will result in fee being applied again.

Coach Agreed Reschedule Fees

Coach Agreed Reschedule Fees Equivalent to Grade Group Referee Fee

- Grade 4: \$50
- Grade 6: \$60
- Grade 8: \$80
- Grade 10: \$210 *Spring only
- PG: \$230 *Spring only

Game Abandon / Rain Out Reschedules

Game Abandon / Rainout

No Change: Home TD will see Game Change Request when game is rained out or referee abandons game

Teams will have 7 days to finalize a reschedule date that Home TD submits and ECYSA approves

ECYSA will set date if coaches can not agree to reschedule date within 7 days

Coach Agreed reschedule can be used for ECYSA set date; fee applied



Reschedule Summary

- **Deadline to Submit Reschedules:** from 72 hours to Sunday before game date
- **Reschedule Date Required as part of Reschedule Request Submission:**
Removal of two step process of Reschedule / Game Change
- **New Coach Agreed Reschedule:** Requesting TD to Submit; Fee equivalent to referee fee applied to requesting team's town organization
- **Games to be played regardless of referee attendance for rescheduled games of Coach Agreed Reschedules**
- **Reschedules of Reschedules allowed;** could result in multiple fees for requesting team organization

Items to note

- **West Nile/Danvers confirmed**
- **When filling out Non-Resident Paperwork, please be sure to spell name of town correctly. Typos will delay our new non-resident approval process.**
- **Coach Agreed Reschedules**
 - **Referee pay increase (moving to towns for Fall 2026 and forward)**
 - **Credentials should be done before a coach goes onto the roster. (looking forward to spring)**
 - **AGM, November 13th 7pm at the Polish Club**
 - **Items you would like to add?**



New G4 Game Time Slots

In effort to allow referees to cover more games and have less downtime, we have adjusted the G4 Game Time Slots for the '25-26 Season.

9:00-10:15, 10:15-11:30, 11:30-12:45, 12:45-2:00, 2:00-3:15,
3:15-4:30

Mass Youth Soccer Coach Education Week

Thank you to Ipswich, Wilmington and Fisherman for hosting Education Week Sessions!

Local Courses:

Date: 8/28/25

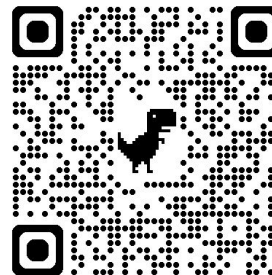
Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Shawsheen Elementary School, 298 Shawsheen Ave, Wilmington, MA

Date: 9/3/25

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Location: Magnolia Woods (upper field) 474 Western Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930



Registration links and full listing of all courses are found on the Mass Youth Website on the Coaches>Coach Education Week tab:

[Coach Education Week – Massachusetts Youth Soccer](#)

Registered coaches that attend will receive a code to get a free USSF Grassroots

Online licensing course.

USSF Coach Licensing

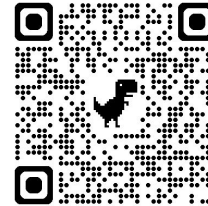
Grassroots 4v4, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 courses are available online through the USSF Learning Center

In-person courses for Grassroots and higher-level licenses (D/C/B) are offered periodically in Massachusetts.

Currently scheduled courses are posted on the Mass Youth Website on the Coaches>Coach Education Courses tab:

[Coach Education Courses – Massachusetts Youth Soccer](#)

The link to submit a request to host a course is included on this page for any interested organizations.





Open Forum
