

# Casa Soccer League of Boston Disciplinary Code

## Purpose

This document outlines the specific disciplinary policies of the Casa Soccer League of Boston. While we hope that these steps never need to be enacted, this written policy ensures consistency in discipline. When events occur that cannot be resolved directly from this document, this document shall serve as a guideline when determining future actions. This document is to be considered as supplementary to the League Rules.

## Definitions

### *Probation*

If a player is on disciplinary probation when committing one of the below infractions, the penalty shall include one extra game suspension beyond the listed penalty.

### *Suspensions*

A player who is suspended from a match may not approach within 100 yards of the field or stadium during play of the match.

### *Repeat Offenses*

A 2nd offense is considered when another action in Table 2 has been committed during that season, even if it was not exactly the same.

## Red and Yellow Card Policy

Red and Yellow Cards are given in-game by the referees. In some cases, cards may be given immediately before, during halftime, or after a game depending on the circumstances. The penalties applied here do not carry over into a new season. These penalties are automatic, represent the minimum penalty, and cannot be removed unless the card itself is retracted by the referee.

**Table 1: Red and Yellow Card Policy.**

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Four cumulative yellow cards (cautions) received during a season.	Suspended for game following that in which 4th caution was received.
For each two additional yellow cards received beyond the 4th	Suspended for game following that in which 2nd caution was received.
Two yellow cards received in-game.	No action beyond standard rules (removal from rest of game, team plays with one less player)
Red card received in game (not resulting from two yellow cards)	Suspended for the next game in addition to standard rules.

## Discipline By Specific Action

The following guidelines should be followed in all cases where applicable. If a given circumstance does not fit the written criteria below, then the Disciplinary Committee should recommend an appropriate action in the spirit of existing guidelines and the FIFA Disciplinary Code where applicable.

The game suspensions in Table 2 apply to games following the incident. The automatic one-game suspension given for a red card (see Table 1) will be served *following* any additional penalties listed in the table. Note that a red card need not be given for the following penalties to apply, especially if the incident occurred on match grounds but before or after a game whistle.

Infractions in Table 2 *may be increased* if appropriate to the seriousness of the situation. In most cases, a referee report should be necessary to initiate a disciplinary proceeding in Table 2, unless complaints by players or captains are provided with sufficient evidence and witness.

**Table 2: Specific Disciplinary Actions**

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>1st offense</b>	<b>Repeat Infractions</b>
<b><i>Actions against players and spectators.</i></b>		
Serious foul play or excessive force.	1 Match Suspension	2 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Unsporting conduct.	1 Match Suspension	2 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Hitting. (Elbowing, Kicking, Punching, Headbutting, etc).	1 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	2 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Taunting, Inciting violent response	1 Match Suspension	2 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Spitting	2 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	2 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Racism I Hate Speech*	4 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	8 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
<b><i>Actions against match officials (referees, supervisors, administrators, employees, etc)</i></b>		
Serious foul play or excessive force.	4 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	8 Match Suspension + 4 Months Probation
Unsporting conduct	4 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	8 Match Suspension + 4 Months Probation
Taunting, Inciting violent response	4 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	8 Match Suspension + 4 Months Probation
Hitting. (Elbowing, Kicking, Punching, Headbutting, etc).	8 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	2 Year Suspension
Spitting	8 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	16 Match Suspension + 4 Months Probation
Racism I Hate Speech *	16 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	1 Year Suspension
<b><i>Brawls and Fighting</i></b>		
Fighting or Participation in a brawl	2 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	4 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Instigation of a brawl	2 Match Suspension+ 1 month Probation	4 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation
Players whose only participation in a brawl is an attempt to prevent a fight, shield others from danger, or separate those involved are not subject to penalties.		
<b><i>General Conduct</i></b>		
Attempted bribery	1 Year Suspension	Lifetime Ban.
Taking part in a match in which player is ineligible (i.e., is suspended from play)	2 Match Suspension + repeat of original discipline. Team forfeits match.	2 Match Suspension + 2 Months Probation + repeat of original discipline. Team forfeits match.
Team forfeiture of a match (failure to provide 7 or more eligible players by scheduled start of match)	Loss of team deposit, forfeiture of match	\$150 fine. Loss of playoff eligibility until fine is paid. Forfeiture of match.
Player plays while suspended	Team forfeits match, (no loss of deposit) + 1 Match Suspension	Team forfeits match (no loss of deposit). 2 Match Suspension (these suspensions are in addition to the original suspension)

**\* Serious incidents may be subject to suspension for one season or more.**

## **Procedures**

Upon receiving a complaint from a referee, the Ombudsman shall obtain ~~written~~ statements about the incident from the referees and involved players, and also witnesses where appropriate. The Ombudsman will summarize and report the case to the Disciplinary Committee. After consultation with the Disciplinary Committee, the Ombudsman will *independently* render a decision. If sufficient evidence exists to conclude that a player was guilty of one of the above infractions the Ombudsman shall notify the player and/or team captain where appropriate of the decision and penalty. The division Commissioner shall perform these duties should the Ombudsman be unavailable or involved in the incident. If the Commissioner is unavailable, an appropriate Officer shall be appointed by the President.

If sufficient complaints are received from players or team captains, the Ombudsman may initiate a disciplinary procedure if deemed appropriate.

## **Appeals**

If a player and the associated captain wish to appeal the opinion of the Ombudsman, the appeal must be formally performed in writing with clear explanations to the league President within 48 hours of the decision being made. The appeal will be distributed to all members of the Disciplinary Committee. Further action could include repeal, reduction or amendment of the original action. If the Disciplinary Committee recommends a reduction in penalty below the minimum requirements listed above, approval of a majority vote of the Board of Directors is required. If a consensus is not obtained within 48 hours of the appeal being made, the original action issued by the Ombudsman will be allowed to stand. No further appeals are accepted.