



# **Policy Manual**

## **South Carolina Amateur Soccer Association**

### **Policies:**

1. Referee Abuse and Misconduct Toward Game Officials
2. Bad Checks
3. Player Fees
4. Player Passes (to be revised 2018)
5. Appeals
6. SafeSport

# SCASA Referee Abuse and Misconduct Toward Game Officials Policy

Effective January, 2023

USSF Policy 531-9, Misconduct Towards Game Officials, defines Referee Abuse under Section 3, subsection 4 as:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

By this USSF Policy, all Referee Abuse cases and all Referee Assault cases, must be handled by SCASA, not by the League in which the incident occurred. In these cases, a League may add additional sanctions to any penalties imposed on a player by SCASA.

This SCASA policy **covers persistent statements or physical acts toward an Official (Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, or Club Linesman) before, during, or after a game, that do not constitute referee assault or referee abuse as provided under US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9**, but mistreat the Official or are inappropriate or unacceptable statements or acts in the following categories:

- 1) Excessive incidences of foul or abusive language at the Official;
- 2) Statements that diminish the authority of the Official; and
- 3) Statements or acts that serve to intimidate without threatening physical harm to the Official.

For such Referee mistreatment incidents defined in categories (1), (2), or (3) above, SCASA directs its Member Leagues to handle such cases within 30 days of the incident according to the League's disciplinary policies. A player shall be under suspension until a final decision is reached by the League or by SCASA.

Examples of misconduct that arise under the description above include the following:

- 1) Confronting the Official without physically threatening the Official;
- 2) Spitting on the ground or in the air near but not at the Official;
- 3) Throwing or kicking an item as a sign of dissent but without the chance of hitting the Official; and
- 4) Re-entering the field to confront the Official.

In handling such Referee mistreatment incidences (that DO NOT qualify under USSF Policy 531-9 as Referee Abuse), the following steps must be taken by a League in handing mistreatment towards a Referee:

- 1) The League shall notify SCASA before taking any discipline actions and provide all relevant supporting documentation, including referee and witness reports and communications with the player.

- 2) If the player is found guilty, the League must issue a suspension of no less than 3 matches. Additional suspensions, fines, or other sanctions are at the discretion of The League. The League must notify SCASA of any penalty imposed on the player.
- 3) The League must provide due process to the player, including the right to appeal to SCASA.
- 4) If the player appeals to SCASA:
  - Appeals must be submitted made by electronic mail and addressed to:  
Chairman Discipline Committee, SCASA  
Email: [scasaregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:scasaregistrar@gmail.com)
  - Appeals to SCASA must be accompanied by a \$150.00 payment made payable to SCASA.
  - Upon receipt of the appeal and the accompanying payment, SCASA will notify all affected parties and will inform them of the consideration schedule.
  - SCASA will review the appeal and make a ruling. Before a decision is reached, SCASA may seek additional information and may convene a hearing, at which time the Member making the appeal may appear before the SCASA hearing panel appointed by the SCASA President. SCASA will hold a hearing if the accused player requests one.
  - If SCASA overturns the sanction issued by The League, then the \$150 appeal fee shall be reimbursed to the player.

Since the League shall notify SCASA before taking any discipline actions, any question from the League if an alleged mistreatment qualifies under his policy or not, can be addressed by SCASA and the League at the time such communication is made by the League.

## SCASA Bad Check Policy

Effective Date: January 6, 2012

SCASA has a policy in place to address receipt of “bad check” from a payee. The policy is:

- A \$25 “returned check” fee applies for each time a check is returned by SCASA’s bank.
- SCASA shall notify the payor by telephone, email, or letter that their check was returned. SCASA may also request assistance from the League Administrator's to assist us in contacting the payor.
- Within 30 days of the effective date (defined as the date SCASA’s bank notifies SCASA that a “bad check was issued”) of SCASA’s notification the payor must resolve the issue by making full payment of the bad check plus the returned check fee. If this full payment due is not made, then the player(s) covered by the check will all be suspended until the issue is resolved.
- The SCASA Administrator will notify the League Administrator that the player(s) in question are not eligible to play in any SCASA sanctioned games or events if they are suspended for nonpayment within the required 30 days.
- If the “bad check” issue is not resolved to SCASA’s satisfaction, then SCASA retains the right to pursue further actions to the full extent of the law, including turning the case over to the Richland County check fraud unit for prosecution.

# SCASA Player Fees

Effective August, 2012

Beginning with the Fall 2012 season, SCASA fees are as follows:

## 1. **Regular Registration:**

Each SCASA player registered for league play shall pay an annual SCASA registration fee of **\$25**, which is valid for the seasonal year of September 1, 2012, through August 31, 2013.

Such registration includes one new SCASA player pass or a revalidation sticker for an existing pass. A SCASA pass will not indicate a particular league or team and may be used for play on any team in any SCASA league, depending upon league policy and procedures.

Regardless of when a player registers, the registration will expire by USASA policy on August 31, 2013.

**Dropped Players:** Once the SCASA Registrar has registered a player by entering his information into the SCASA player database and issued a player pass or update sticker, the player will be registered for that seasonal year and will owe the annual registration fee, regardless of whether he plays or remains active. A “dropped” player is one who is no longer on the team’s active roster for that season.

## 2. **Tournament Registration:**

An unregistered player may register for a specific sanctioned tournament that is valid for up to seven days for only the duration of that tournament.

Tournament player passes with its start and expiration dates stated on the sticker will be issued by SCASA only when requested, since most sanctioned tournaments that accept this form of registration will accept the player’s name appearing on a state certified roster as evidence of USSA association registration

The SCASA fees are:

- a. **\$10** for a tournament registration for SC residents.
- b. **\$15** for a tournament registration for non-SC residents.

## 3. **Dual Registration:**

There shall no longer be a SCASA Dual Registration fee for players who play in more than one SCASA league. The annual \$25 registration fee will be due from the first league in which the player first registers.

## 4. **Extra Player Passes:**

Duplicate or replacement player passes shall be issued by SCASA for a cost of **\$5** each when requested by players, teams, or leagues.

# SCASA Player Pass Policy

Effective September, 2012

In order for the USASA liability and player injury insurance to be in effect, every player who enters a sanctioned game must be properly registered. SCASA's interest, therefore, is to be sure that all players are able to show the game referees that they are registered for the current seasonal year. Whether a player is on a particular team's active roster for the current season is a league concern, and how that is checked is determined by league policies.

## **SCASA Player Pass Form**

SCASA shall issue or validate one player pass per registered player that may be used in all SCASA leagues and USSA sanctioned tournaments.

1. All new SCASA player passes issued for the 2012/13 seasonal year shall display the SCASA logo without league logos, and shall have

### On the front:

- The player's name.
- Date of birth.
- Pass number.
- The player signature line acknowledging the liability waiver policy.
- A place for the player's headshot photo.

On the back, a color-coded seasonal year SCASA-issued validation sticker showing:

- The player's name.
- The period for which the card is valid.
- Contact information for SCASA and the USSA accident insurance.
- Space for leagues to add optional team & season registration stickers.

2. All player passes issued after the Fall 2004 season may be used, as long as:
  - The player pass is laminated and in good condition.
  - The individual is still identifiable from the picture on the player pass.
  - An unexpired current seasonal year SCASA validation sticker is attached to the back.

## **SCASA Player Check-in Requirements at Games**

In order to verify that all players participating in a sanctioned game are currently registered with SCASA or another USSA association, one of the following game day check-in procedures shall be followed for all players at every game. Each league or tournament director shall make sure that their referee assignor notifies their referees of the procedure to be used:

1. With SCASA Player Passes: Each player must show a current SCASA or other USSA association player pass to the referee, who checks the pass against the team's SCASA certified game-day roster when required by league policy.

OR

2. With Alternate ID's: Each player must show a photo ID, which may be a SCASA player pass, to the referee, who checks the name and birth date against the team's SCASA certified game-day roster

Any player not able to check in at a game by the required procedure shall not be allowed to play. A league-designated officer or tournament director may grant an exception and permit a known, previously verified player to participate in a game if league or tournament rules allow such exceptions.

If a Referee encounters any of the following:

- A player pass that is not SCASA validated for the current seasonal year or for the time period of that event;
- The player presenting the player pass is not the person shown on the player pass;
- A player pass that is damaged (i.e. the laminate is peeling) or is not properly laminated and thus subject to tampering or one with a photo of such poor quality that the player can't be identified;
- A player who is not listed on the team's SCASA certified game-day roster or whose photo ID does not match the name or birth date shown on the roster;

Then the referee must:

- Note the situation on the USSF Referee Report Form for that game and submit it to the league administrator, with a copy sent to the SCASA registrar.
- Confiscate the player pass and immediately send it to the league administrator.

### **Red Cards with Alternate ID's**

When certified game day rosters with alternate photo ID's are used instead of player passes, and a red card is issued or other reportable incident arises in a game, the referee shall submit a USSF Referee Report form to the league administrator. The player's name and player pass number may be obtained from the SCASA certified game-day roster.

The league shall notify the referee assignor, the team representative, and the player of any suspension period and penalties imposed under its rules and policies and shall monitor the enforcement by its procedures.

# SCASA Appeals Policy

Effective September, 2012

Members (as defined in SCASA's By Laws) of SCASA who are in "good standing" are afforded the option to appeal suspensions or grievances against them which are imposed by any Member League.

The steps in the Appeal Policy are as follows:

2. SCASA will only consider suspensions that are over three months in duration.
3. The Member is directed to first make an appeal directly to the Member League that issued the suspension (as allowed for under the Member League's rules).
4. If after such an appeal the Member remains unsatisfied with the ruling, they may appeal to SCASA.
5. Appeals must be submitted in writing (by mail or electronic mail) to:  
Chairman Discipline Committee  
SCASA  
1801 Seneca St  
Columbia, SC 29205-3036  
Email: [admin@scamateursoccer.org](mailto:admin@scamateursoccer.org)
6. Appeals must include and clearly explain:
  - o The nature and basis of the appeal.
  - o The ruling made by the Member League.
  - o All supporting documentation to support the appeal.
7. Appeals must be accompanied by a \$150.00 non-refundable check or money order made payable to SCASA.
8. Upon receipt SCASA will acknowledge receipt of the appeal to all affected parties and will notify them of the consideration schedule.
9. SCASA will review the appeal and make a ruling. Before a decision is reached SCASA may seek additional information and may convene a hearing, at which time the Member making the appeal may appear before the SCASA hearing panel appointed by the SCASA President.



## **SCASA SafeSport Policy**

Effective May, 2020

In order to comply with the SafeSport Act of 2017 and with the related Bylaws and Policies of USSF and USASA, SCASA has adopted this policy on allowing participants who are minors, under the age of 18.

A member league of SCASA may choose to allow only participants age 18 or over.

If a league does allow participants to be age under 18, then the league administrators and officers must complete the online SafeSport training as given by the US Center for SafeSport.

All of a team's managers and players on the current active roster of a team with any minor players must complete the SafeSport training. Those required to take the SafeSport training must have a certificate verifying this completion.

When SafeSport training is required, training in the same areas from an organization other than SafeSport is acceptable when such alternative training is approved by USASA or USSF.

When required by USSF or USASA policy, all league administrators and teammates of a minor player must also have a background check by a company approved for such by USSF or USASA.