



DISCIPLINARY CODE
2019-2020

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I. INTRODUCTION

This Disciplinary Code (the “Code”) describes adjudication of infringements or infractions of the Development Academy Rules & Regulations (the “Regulations”), the Development Academy Brand Guidelines, the Safe Soccer Framework and any other DA Policy or rule promulgated from time to time (collectively, the foregoing comprise the “DA Requirements”) and provides the process by which disciplinary decisions are made in connection with the U.S. Soccer Development Academy (“Development Academy”). By returning a participation agreement and agreeing to affiliate with the Development Academy, each Club agrees to be bound by this Code, and by participating in Development Academy events, each player, coach or other Club staff agrees to be bound by this Code.

A. Jurisdictional and Scope

The Disciplinary Bodies charged with authority in this Code shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to any conduct or occurrence during a Development Academy match or relating to a violation of the Regulations or another policy applicable to the Development Academy. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any violation of the Safe Soccer Framework¹ involving allegations of sexual misconduct will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport, in the first instance.

This Code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers. If there are any omissions in this code, the Academy Staff will decide upon the appropriate rules. This code applies to every game and competition organized by the U.S. Soccer Development Academy. The following are subject to this code:

- Academy Clubs;
- Coaches/Club Staff;
- Academy Players;
- Game Officials;
- Spectators at Development Academy matches

B. Disciplinary Bodies

The Disciplinary bodies of U.S. Soccer Development Academy are:

- the Development Academy Program Staff;
- the Discipline Review Panel; and

¹ The Safe Soccer Framework is the comprehensive program of policies and procedures implementing the SafeSport Code and S.534 – *the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017*.

- the Discipline Committee.

C. Scope of Authority

Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the judicial body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable. The body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction accordingly. Authority under this Code includes the ability to:

1. Sanction any breach of the DA Requirements;
2. Sanction serious infringements that have escaped the referee’s attention;
3. Rectify errors in the referees’ disciplinary decisions based on mistaken identity, clerical error, etc.;
4. Review Red cards, match official reports, etc. relating to unusual game action; serious infractions, matters outside of game action;
5. Extend the duration of a game suspension incurred automatically by a send-off; and
6. Pronounce other sanctions consistent with the DA Requirements.

D. Alleged Violations of Safe Soccer Framework

Within the Scope of authority, any alleged violation of the Safe Sport Code (as incorporated into U.S. Soccer’s Prohibited Conduct Policy and the Safe Soccer Framework) will be handled according to the type of violation alleged. Allegations of Sexual Misconduct must be referred to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, which retains exclusive jurisdiction over such allegations in the context of the Development Academy. Exclusive jurisdiction requires that the Development Academy Clubs agree, as a condition of Academy participation, to cooperate with any Center investigation and to refrain from interfering with the Center’s exercise of its jurisdiction. Failure to support an independent investigation by the Center may risk future Development Academy participation.

All other allegations of violations of the Safe Soccer Framework should be referred to USSF Staff, who will retain the exclusive authority to review such issues in the context of the Development Academy. The flow chart below summarizes the process in each case for alleged violations of the Safe Soccer Framework:



E. All Other Disciplinary Matters

Any violation of DA Requirements or other infringements that do not implicate the Safe Soccer Framework will be handled as provided below. Importantly, the processes described in this Section E are not exclusive of the Club's disciplinary authority, meaning Clubs are permitted to issue their own discipline, as well.

1. **USSF DA Program Staff**

USSF Program DA Staff are available in the first instance to review alleged Academy infractions. They review red cards issued following matches as well as match official reports detailing any unusual or serious infractions or matters outside of game action, to rectify errors in referees' disciplinary decisions, sanction serious infringements that have escaped the referee's attention; address roster issues, extend the duration of a game suspension incurred automatically by a send-off; and take other disciplinary action where precedent exists. Where precedent does not exist or where a unique issue is presented, USSF Staff will request the appointment of a Discipline Review Panel.

2. **Discipline Review Panel**

The Discipline Panel is an internal panel comprised of three representatives decided by USSF CEO Secretary General that is charged with resolving incidents of alleged Academy infractions, and with authority to issue up to five-game suspensions.

The USSF Secretary General appoints the members of the Discipline Panel for the entire season. The Secretary General may designate from the following categories:

- Development Academy Program Staff Member
- Development Academy Technical Member
- Legal Representative
- Referee Representative

The Discipline Review Panel holds authority to issue up to five (5) additional fixture date suspensions to any offense listed in this Code or the Academy Regulations. An Academy Player, Coach/Club Staff or Academy Club has the right to a formal hearing only if the suspension levied by the Discipline Review Panel exceeds five (5) additional fixture dates. In the event video evidence is available, the Discipline Review Panel shall request and use the evidence for appropriate suspensions, fines and sanctions.

The Panel may refer to the Disciplinary Committee any disciplinary matter implicating additional remedial action.

3. **Disciplinary Committee**

The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by U.S. Soccer's CEO/Secretary General on an ad hoc basis as requested by the Discipline Review Panel or DA Program staff. The Secretary General shall designate one (1) national team coach, one former or current FIFA level referee

and one elite level athlete to serve on the Discipline Committee. The judicial bodies of the Development Academy pass their decisions entirely independently. The members of the Discipline Committee may not be current members of the USSF Board of Directors.

II. SANCTIONS

A. Sanctions by Classification

Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for in this Code may be combined.

	Players	Coaches/Club Staff	Academy Clubs
Sanctions available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warning • reprimand • caution • send-off • game suspension • ban from any locker rooms and/or substitutes' bench • ban from entering a facility • ban on taking part in any soccer-related activity • fine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warning; • reprimand • dismissal • game suspension • ban from any locker rooms and/or substitutes' bench • ban from entering a facility • ban on taking part in any soccer-related activity • fine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dismissal of Club Staff • transfer ban • playing a game without spectators • playing a game on neutral territory • ban on playing in a particular facility • annulment of the result of a game • forfeit of a game • exclusion from a competition • deduction of points; • removal from the Development Academy Program.

Note: the U.S. Center for Safe Sport retains exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of sexual misconduct (See Section I.D, above) and can issue sanctions up to and including a lifetime ban from all sports associated with the Olympic movement.

B. Records of Sanctions

Records of cautions, send-offs and game suspensions will be maintained by the Development Academy. When necessary, the Academy Staff will update clubs of suspensions in writing. These updates serve only as confirmation; sanctions (cautions, send offs, automatic game suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent games even if the website is updated after the game has been played. It is the responsibility of the Academy Club to uphold all game suspensions regardless of confirmation from Academy Staff.

C. General Rules Regarding Sanctions

The body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of such sanction. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of game or competition. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is defined. The body shall take account of all relevant factors in the case when imposing the sanction, including:

1. **Repeated Infringements**—Unless otherwise specified, the body may increase the sanction if an infringement has been repeated.
2. **Concurrent Infringements**—If several fines are levied against someone as a result of one or more infringements, the relevant body bases the fine on the most serious offense committed and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction by up to fifty per cent of the maximum sanction specified for that offense. The same applies if a person incurs several sanctions of a similar type (two or more game suspensions, two or more facility bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements. The body that determines the fine for concurrent infringements is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine.
3. **Limit on Sanctions**—Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, sanctions shall last no more than two years. The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

D. Minimum Sanctions Applicable to Send-offs/Red Cards

Including the automatic suspension incurred, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:

1. At least one (1) fixture date for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
2. At least one (1) fixture date for serious foul play or violent conduct. Additional games may be added to serious foul play or violent conduct suspensions in the case of serious or extreme incidents, which may include but is not limited to assaulting or attempting to assault (pushing, elbowing, punching, kicking, head butting, etc.) an opponent or a person other than a game official. Subsequent serious foul play or violent conduct offenses during the season will result in increased suspensions; at least two (2) games for the second offense, at least three (3) games for the third offense, at least four (4) games for the fourth offense, at least five (5) games for fifth offense and the remainder of the season for the sixth red card received for serious foul play or violent conduct during the season;
3. At least one (1) fixture date for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a game official;
4. At least two (2) fixture dates for offensive or abusive language towards a game official;
5. At least five (5) fixture dates for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a game official;

6. At least five (5) fixture dates for making racist or discriminatory remarks at an opponent or a person other than a game official;
7. In all cases, a fine may also be imposed against the Club.

E. Misconduct Against Game Officials

Misconduct against game officials shall be governed by USSF Policy 531-9 available at: www.ussoccer.com/about/governance/bylaws. A fine for the Club may also be imposed.

F. Brawl

The Development Academy does not tolerate violence. Anyone involved in a brawl may be sanctioned. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment. If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the body may sanction the club to which the aggressors belong.

G. Team Misconduct

The following constitutes misconduct by a team and may be sanctioned by a fine:

- when four (4) players are cautioned (receive yellow cards) during one game;
- when three (3) players are sent off (receive red cards) during one game;
- when several players together make threats or show force against a game official.

H. Inciting Hatred And Violence

A player, coach or other Club Staff who publicly incites others to hatred or violence may be sanctioned.

I. Ineligibility

If a player takes part in an official game despite being ineligible, the team may be sanctioned by forfeiting the game. Additional sanctions may be imposed against the player or the club.

J. Abandonment

If a team refuses to play a game or to continue playing one which it has begun, it may be sanctioned by forfeiting the game. Additional sanctions may be imposed against the team's club. In serious cases, the team will also be disqualified from the competition in progress.

K. Offensive Behavior

Anyone who has engaged in objectively insulting behavior, especially by using offensive gestures or language, may be sanctioned.

L. Racism

Racism is not tolerated. Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone on account of race, color, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other racist and/or contemptuous deed, may be sanctioned.

M. Forgery and Falsification

Anyone who, in U.S. Soccer Development Academy related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations may be sanctioned.

N. Corruption

Betting or gambling of any kind on Development Academy games is strictly prohibited. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a club, a game official, a player or Club Staff on behalf of him/herself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him/her to violate the regulations of the Development Academy will be sanctioned. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) will be sanctioned in the same manner. In serious cases or in the cases of repetition, a lifetime ban may be imposed.

O. Illegal Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

The illegal use of drugs (as determined by federal law), alcohol or tobacco by players or officials in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy is strictly prohibited during all Academy related activities. A violation of this provision may result in sanctions.

P. Failure to Respect Decisions

Anyone who fails to pay an Academy Club or the Development Academy a sum of money in full or part, where such sum is related to Development Academy activity, even though instructed to do so by a body or committee of the Development Academy, or anyone who fails to comply with another decision passed by a body or committee of the Development Academy: 1) may be fined for failing to comply with a decision; 2) may be granted a final deadline by the judicial bodies of USSF in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the (non-financial) decision; 3) (only for clubs:) may be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, points will be deducted or removed from the Development Academy. A transfer ban may also be pronounced. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed. A ban on any U.S. Soccer Development Academy- related activity may also be imposed against natural persons. Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this article shall immediately be lodged with the Academy Staff.

III. Club Responsibility in Implementing this Code

A. Maintaining a Safe Competitive Environment

1. Clubs that organize games shall:
 - (a) Assess the degree of risk posed by games and notify the USSF of those that are especially high-risk;
 - (b) Comply with and implement existing safety rules and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the game and if incidents occur;
 - (c) Ensure the safety of game officials, players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;
 - (d) Keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively, promptly reporting all allegations of child abuse to law enforcement authorities as required by Federal law;
 - (e) Ensure that law and order are maintained in the facilities and immediate surroundings and that games are organized properly;
 - (f) Promptly report all alleged violations of the Safe Soccer Framework to U.S. Soccer and any alleged sexual misconduct to the U.S. Center for SafeSport;
 - (g) Cooperate in good faith with any review or investigation by U.S. Soccer or the U.S. Center for SafeSport;
 - (h) Actively vet the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;
 - (i) Ensure that no one is involved in the management of clubs who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (especially doping, corruption, forgery, etc.) or who has been convicted of a criminal offense involving fraud or moral turpitude in the past five (5) years.
2. Any club that fails to fulfill its obligations listed above may be fined. In the case of a serious infringement, additional sanctions may be imposed up to and including removal from the Academy. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed.
3. The home club is responsible for improper conduct among its spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances. The visiting club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances. Improper conduct includes violence towards persons or property, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting slogans in any form, uttering

insulting words or sounds or invading the field. The liability described above also includes games played on neutral ground.

B. Game Officials who are minors.

Misconduct toward referees is expressly prohibited by U.S. Soccer Policy 531-9, but a particular note is required regarding referees who are also minors.

Youth referees are trained game officials, and many are experienced players, but they are minors nonetheless and are therefore entitled to all of the protections extended to athletes by the Safe Soccer Framework and this Code.

Without limiting the foregoing, each Development Academy Club and each Development Academy Coach and other Club Staff is responsible for ensuring a safe environment for referees. Wherever a Development Academy Requirement includes protections for athletes, they should also be read as protecting youth referees, as well.

IV. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

A. Scope of Discipline Committee Authority

As discussed above, the Discipline Panel has authority to decide any discipline matters and issue suspensions up to and including (5) additional fixtures. Excepting Safe Soccer Framework violations, The Discipline Panel refers to the Disciplinary Committee any disciplinary matter potentially implicating additional remedial action beyond five (5) additional fixture suspensions.

B. Hearing

Unless otherwise provided for in this Code or the Development Academy Regulations, USSF Bylaw 701 and Policy 701-1 shall apply to all hearings conducted by the Discipline Committee. The members of the judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (facts of the case, contents of the deliberations and decisions taken). Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public. In the unlikely event that a member of the Discipline Committee has an interest in the matter before the Committee, the Academy Staff may appoint a replacement member for that hearing only. These hearings may take place by phone.

C. Commencement of Proceedings

Any person or body may report conduct that he or she considers incompatible with the regulations of the Development Academy to the Academy Staff. U.S. Soccer prohibits retaliation against individuals raising good faith concerns. Game Officials should report violations which have come to their notice.

D. Investigations/Reviews

The Academy Staff carries out the necessary preliminary review.

E. Information Provided by the Parties

The parties must comply with requests for information from the judicial bodies. If the parties are dilatory in responding, the chairman of the judicial body may, after warning them, impose a sanction. If the parties fail to comply, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies may reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

F. Time Limits

Time limits will be set by the Discipline Committee. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a weekend or public holiday, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a weekend or public holiday.

G. Right to be Heard

The parties will be heard before any decision is passed. They may, in particular: (a) refer to the file; (b) present their argument in fact and in law; (c) request production of proof; (d) be involved in the production of proof; (e) obtain a reasoned decision. This right to be heard shall be satisfied by providing an opportunity for written arguments. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances. The right to be heard may be restricted in exceptional circumstances, such as when confidential matters need to be safeguarded.

H. Evidence

Any type of evidence may be produced. Proof that violates human dignity or obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be rejected. The following are admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, fourth officials, game commissioners and referee inspectors, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions and audio or video recordings. The bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof. They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the staff liaison. They decide on the basis of their personal convictions.

I. Language Used in Proceedings

The languages used in proceedings will be English. If the first language of a person concerned is not English, the person concerned will be responsible for translation.

J. Addressees

1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
2. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the club concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the

ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the Academy Club.

K. Deliberations

The Discipline Committee deliberates outside the presence of the parties to the hearing. The Discipline Committee may choose to engage in deliberations by phone conference or other similar method.

L. Decisions

The Discipline Committee shall issue a written decision. The decision contains: (a) the composition of the committee; (b) the names of the parties; (c) a summary of the facts; (d) the legal reasons for the decision; (e) the provisions on which the decision was based; (f) the terms of the decision; (g) notice of the channels for appeal. The decisions are signed by the staff liaison. Decisions communicated by email, fax and registered letter shall be legally binding. Decisions come into force as soon as they are communicated.

M. Appeals

1. An appeal may be lodged to the U.S. Soccer Federation against any decision passed by the Discipline Committee or Discipline Review Panel, unless the sanction pronounced is: (a) a warning; (b) a reprimand; (c) a suspension for less than six games; (d) a fine of less than \$200 imposed on a club or of less than \$100 in other cases.
2. Anyone who is affected by a decision and has an interest justifying reduction of a punishment or cancellation of the decision may submit it to the Academy Staff. Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members. They shall have the written agreement of the person concerned.
3. Any party intending to appeal must inform the Academy Staff of its intention to do so in writing within 24 hours of notification of the decision. Reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven (7) days. This seven-day period begins after the first deadline of 24 hours has expired. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal will be rejected, unless the appealing party shows good cause for the delay.
4. The appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/or wrong application of the law.
5. The appellant shall submit a petition of appeal. The petition shall include the claim as well as the reasons and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative.
6. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall submit an appeal fee of \$300 to the Development Academy within seven (7) days of receipt of the decision. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal will be denied. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he or she wins the case.
7. An appeal results in the case being reviewed by the CEO/Secretary General. The

appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

N. Review

A review may be requested after a binding, non-appealable decision has been issued if a party discovers facts or evidence that would have resulted in a more favorable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner. A request for review shall be made within ten (10) days of discovering the reasons for review, subject to the limitations period in the next sentence. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one (1) year after the enforcement of the decision. Following this time period, all decisions are final.

V. **DEFINITIONS**

- Annulment of the Result of a Game: the result of a game is annulled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.
- Caution: See “Yellow Card”
- Ban from Locker Rooms and/or Substitutes’ Bench: deprives someone of the right to enter a team’s locker rooms and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and to sit on the substitutes’ bench.
- Ban on Playing in a Particular Facility: deprives a club of the right to have its team play in a certain facility.
- Ban on Taking Part in Any Soccer-Related Activity: A person may be banned from taking part in any kind of soccer-related activity (administrative, sports or any other).
- Club Staff: anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with soccer at an Academy club, regardless of title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity; in particular, managers, coaches and support staff are officials.
- Deduction of Points: a club may have points deducted from those already attained in a current or future championship.
- Dismissal: a dismissal is not a red card for officials. He or she shall, however, ensure that they do not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play. Any official dismissed is suspended for the remainder of the fixture date and for a minimum of the subsequent entire fixture date for both age groups.
- Exclusion from a Competition: the deprivation of the right of a club to take part in the current and/or a future competition.

- Fine: a fine shall not be less than \$25, and not more than \$10,000. The body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment. Clubs are jointly liable for fines imposed on representative team players and officials. The fact that a natural person has left a club does not cancel out joint liability.
- Forfeit: teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the game by 3-0. If the goal difference at the end of the game in question is greater than 3-0, the result on the field is upheld.
- Game official: the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, game commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety and any other persons appointed by USSF to assume responsibility in connection with a game.
- Game Suspension: a ban on taking any part in a future game or competition including the area immediately surrounding the field of play. The suspension is imposed in terms of games, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four games or twenty-four months. If the suspension is to be served in terms of games, only those games played by the team count towards fulfillment of the suspension. If a game is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the game. If a match in which a player or official was suspended for is rescheduled; the Academy Staff will determine the date of suspension based on the change in schedule. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full. As a general rule, every game suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one (1) round to the next in the same competition. Game suspensions in relation to a send-off of a player or person outside of a competition (separate game[s]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last game in the competition) are carried over as follows: i) Academy Regular Season: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official game. ii) Academy Playoffs: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official game; iii) Academy Finals Week: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official game; Game suspensions resulting from yellow card accumulation issued to a player in different games of the same competition are never carried over to another competition. Any send off or dismissal taking place in a team's final game of an Academy Season will result in the suspension being carried over to the subsequent season.
- Official game: a game organized under the auspices of U.S. Soccer Development Academy.
- Playing A Game Without Spectators: The obligation to play a game behind closed doors requires a club to have a certain game played without spectators.
- Playing A Game on Neutral Ground: requires a club to have a certain game played in an area not associated with a competing team.
- Post-game: the time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the facility.

- Pre-game: the time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the facility and the whistle for kick-off from the referee.
- Reprimand: an official written pronouncement of disapproval sent to the perpetrator of an infringement.
- Red Card (Send-Off): a decision by the referee to sanction misconduct by the display of a red card in accordance with the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and related official guidance from USSF. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behavior as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards. The player's team is required to continue play with one fewer eligible players on the field. A send-off automatically incurs suspension for the remainder of the fixture date and for a minimum of the subsequent fixture date, even if imposed in a game that is later abandoned and/or annulled. The Discipline Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.
- Subsequent red card violations during the season will result in increased suspensions as provided in Section II.D, above.
- Transfer Ban: prevents a club from registering a specific player or any player during the period in question.
- Yellow Card (Caution): a decision by the referee to sanction misconduct by the display of a yellow card in accordance with the provision of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and related official guidance from USSF. Two cautions received during the same game incur a send-off (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next game. The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded for purposes of yellow card accumulation. If a player receives a caution in five (5) separate games of the same U.S. Soccer Development Academy Competition, he or she is automatically suspended from the club's next fixture, regardless of location. If a postponed game is to be replayed from the start, any caution issued during that game shall be annulled. If the game is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the game to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all cautions are upheld. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behavior as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he or she has previously received in the same game is upheld. Cautions received during one (1) competition year are not carried over to another competition year or from the Academy Regular Season to the Academy Playoffs or from the Academy Playoffs to Academy Finals Week. The USSF Secretary General may depart from this rule in exceptional circumstances.
- Warning: a reminder of the substance of a disciplinary rule allied with the threat of a sanction in the event of a further infringement.