



## US Soccer Referee Policy

### Protecting our Referees

Referees are essential to soccer, but far too often risk their emotional and physical well-being in service to the game. Win, lose, or draw, we're in this together. When you take your anger out on the referee, everybody loses, and the call on the field still stands. Referee abuse is damaging for everyone involved—and for the future of soccer.

READ: [US Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention Policy](#)

### 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

### Key Takeaways:

- 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
- More than one offense at the same time is at least the punishment for the most serious offense
- Penalties range from 2 game bans all the way up to lifetime bans based on severity of offense