



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION
The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta

11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6



Disciplinary Process for Complaints against Game Officials

Purpose:

This disciplinary process is in place to deal with complaints against referees that relate to ethical conduct, on field or off field behaviour and Alberta Soccer Association Referee Code of Conduct violations. This process is not intended to deal with referee performance or on field decisions made in accordance with the powers and duties granted to referees under the Laws of the Game, Futsal Laws of the Game or the Rules of Indoor Soccer.

Discipline Process:

1. Upon receipt of a complaint in writing, signed by the complainant, the chair(s) of the Referee Development Committee shall review it to determine whether it would be, if substantiated, an offence against the ASA Referee Code of Conduct or the ASA Bylaws, Rule and Regulations, or a violation of ethical conduct, honesty or moral behaviour. Details for submitting a complaint are at the end of this document.
2. Should this be the case, the chair shall cause the regional (i.e., North or South) RDC members, under whose jurisdiction the alleged offence occurred, to act as a discipline committee under the longest-standing member as chair.
3. The ASA office shall assign a recording secretary to the discipline meeting.
4. The ASA office shall summon the official accused to a hearing, to which the complainant(s) may also be invited, giving him ten working days' notice (unless waived by the official in writing).
5. The discipline committee shall meet, and conduct the hearing as follows:
 - a. the participants of the hearing (panel, ASA staff, accused, witnesses) shall be introduced, and the chair will state who may speak to the chair, other than the accused;
 - b. read the complaint to the official;
 - c. ask for any further elaboration from the complainant(s), if any;
 - d. ask for a response or defence from the official in question;
 - e. ask for any further evidence to be submitted from third parties if it is clearly relevant to the complaint (if so allowed by the chair of the discipline committee);
 - f. entertain any questions from the members of the discipline committee for either or both the official or the complainant(s); and
 - g. ask for closing comments from the complainant(s) and then the official

6. The discipline committee shall then meet in a closed meeting to determine:
 - a. the validity of the complaint;
 - b. if upheld, the penalty that shall be assessed against the official, which may include any of the following:
 - i. a notation on his or her formal record,
 - ii. removal from a game or series of games,
 - iii. suspension from officiating for a specified period of time,
 - iv. suspension from all soccer activity for a specified period of time,
 - v. downgrading on the list of ASA registered officials,
 - vi. temporary or permanent removal from the list of ASA registered officials.

Frivolous Complaints

7. Should the complaint be considered to be of a malicious or defamatory nature, and of no substance, the complainant may be referred to the player, coach or team official disciplinary process as outlined by the ASA.

Potential Criminal Code Complaints

8. Should it be found that any offence against the criminal law has occurred, that this decision, and all background information received by the disciplinary committee, shall be forwarded to the local police service within 24 hours of the finding.

Communication of Decision

9. This decision shall be communicated to the official in writing by registered mail or electronic mail within ten working days by the ASA office.

Appeals

10. An appeal of the decision may be made to the ASA Appeals Committee by the official within 15 working days of receipt of the decision in writing,
11. The appeal must be in writing and accompanied by a \$500 appeal fee, which shall be refunded in whole or in part if the appeal is upheld.
12. The normal appeal processes and timelines shall be in effect.

Submitting a complaint

13. Complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant. Complaints should be submitted to the Referee Development Officer (Referee Development Committee Chair):

Email – refs@albertasoccer.com

Mail – 11759 Groat Road NW

Edmonton, AB

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