

PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

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, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(*) Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

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KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- 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
- Second time offenders receive double punishment
- Third time offenders receive a lifetime ban
- More than one offense at the same time is at least the punishment for the most serious offense
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a "minor multiplier" resulting in triple punishment
- One offense warning per league to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given
- Optionality for 50% penalty for first offense from a minor

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.

3 U.S. Soccer Policy 531-9 / Youth & Amateur Effective March 2025