

Summary R&D Decisions for 2003

1. U19/1 Protest of Red Card

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. The basis of the protest was that the referee provoked the red card issued to Coach A. The R&D Committee reviewed the protest filed by Team A, reports submitted by the referee, and Team B as well as testimony provided by Team A and the referee during the hearing.

Player A dissented a call by the referee and was cautioned for dissent and shown a yellow card. Shortly thereafter, and before play resumed, Player A continued to dissent the original call and caution. After a verbal warning, the referee issued Player A a second yellow and ejected him from the match and displayed the red card.

After the match, Team Manager A went to the referee to obtain the cards issued during the match. Team Manager A misunderstood the cards issued to Player A and reported to Coach A that he received two red cards in the match. Coach A went to the referee to protest the cards issued to Player A. Coach A was advised to leave the area but he continued to argue. At this point, the referee issued Coach A a red card for abusive language.

For the record, Coach A received a yellow card during the match for dissent. Therefore, Coach A accumulated 20 disciplinary points during the match (10 points for the first yellow and 10 points for the red card after the match).

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied.
2. Coach A is suspended for two games. These sit-outs must be served in the next two Team A NCSL games. Any additional yellow card Coach A receives this season will result in an automatic one game suspension for accumulated points.

2. U19/1 Protest of Game

The R&D Chairman received a complaint from Team C that they signed sit-out cards for Team A's coach and player but neither served the sit-out in accordance with NCSL Rules & Procedures. Both Coach A and Player A should have been serving suspensions in the game played on April 26, 2003 for carryover sit-outs from the Spring 2002 season. The score of the match was Team A 3 vs. Team C 2.

It was reported to the R&D Chairman that Player A was acting as the assistant coach on the team sideline and Coach A was on the spectator sideline communicating with the team via a cell phone.

The R&D Chairman received reports from both teams and spoke with the referee and the assistant referee. Team A admitted that Player A was on the team sideline during the game; however, they stated that he was not coaching but just offering encouragement to the team. Team A also admitted that Coach A was on the spectator sideline. The assistant referee reported Player A did use his cell during the match. Whether or not he used his cell phone to communicate with Coach A or not, can not be verified nor refuted; it certainly gave an appearance of impropriety.

NCSL Rules & Procedures Manual Section V, Paragraph G- Sit-Out Procedures contains the following requirements for serving suspensions:

8. A player sitting out a game may attend the game, but must not be in uniform and must not be on the team sideline, and must not assist in any function related to the game.
9. A coach or team official serving a sit-out is encouraged not to attend the game at all. If a coach or team official does attend, however, he must not be closer to the playing field than 100 yards beginning 30 minutes before game time, and must remain not closer to the playing field than 100 yards until 30 minutes after the game is over. This period of time is defined as "the sit-out period." During this "sit-out period" a coach or team official must not be involved in any way with administration of the team at the game site, either directly, or indirectly. Use of walkie-talkies, cell phones, or any other method of communication by the coach to communicate with the team is strictly forbidden. The fact that a game can be seen from a public street or sidewalk, which may be closer than 100 yards does not relieve the coach or team official from complying with the 100 yard rule.

It is clear that neither Coach A nor Player A complied with these sit-out requirements.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded as Team B 3 vs. Team A 0.
2. The sit-outs served by Coach A and Player A do not count and must be reserved in the next Team A NCSL match.

3. U19/1 Coach Failure to Serve Mandatory Suspensions

NOTE: Decision #2 above pertains to the same U19 Team A as in this decision. Decision #2 was issued as a result of a protest filed by Team C. After the decision was issued, Teams B, D, and E contacted the R&D Chairman and raised similar allegations against Team A. This hearing was held to review the additional issues raised.

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review allegations from several different NCSL matches that Coach A should have been serving suspensions but failed to do so. In each allegation, the opponent team signed the sit-out card in good faith and assumed that Coach A would not be in attendance during their match. However, in each case the team reported after the match that Coach A was in attendance at the match.

For the record, Coach A was required to attend the hearing but chose not to participate. Team Manger A was the only team representative that attended the hearing.

The committee reviewed reports submitted by Team A, Team B, Team D, Team E, referees, as well as testimony presented by Team Manager A during the hearing. In addition, the committee reviewed the previously issued R&D decision concerning Coach A's failure to sit-out in the above (Decision #1) U19/1 game vs. Team C.

Description of the events and issues concerning Coach A are as follows:

On May 12, 2002, Coach A was issued a red card, he had the opportunity to serve his suspension during the Spring 2002 season but did not. For failure to sit for the red card, Coach A was suspended for three games. Since Team A did not participate in NCSL Fall 2002 season, these suspensions carried over to the Spring 2003 season.

On April 6, 2003, Team A filed sit-out cards for Coach A and Player A. Score of the match was Team A 2 vs. Team B 1. After the match, Coach B reported that Coach A was on the player sideline near the corner flag closest to Team A and did meet with his team at halftime.

On April 26, 2003, Team A filed sit-out cards for Coach A and Player A. The score of the match was Team A 3 vs. Team C 2. After the match, the R&D Chairman received a complaint from Team E that neither served the sit-out in accordance with NCSL Rules & Procedures. It was reported Player A was acting as the assistant coach on the team sideline and Coach A was on the spectator sideline communicating with the team via a cell phone. Team A reported both Coach A and Player A were at the match. Team A disputed the allegation that both were involved in coaching the team. The game was declared a forfeit and the score was recorded Team C 3 vs. Team A 0. The sit outs for both coach and player did not count and they were directed to sit-out again.

On April 27, 2003, Team A filed sit-out cards for Coach A and Player A. Score of the match was Team A 3 vs. Team D 0. After the match, Team D reported both coach and player were on the team sideline during that match. In the opinion of Coach D, Coach A was involved in coaching the team. The referee reported Coach A was at the match, that he directed Coach A to leave the sideline but Coach A remained on the team sideline.

On May 11, 2003, Team A filed sit-out cards for Coach A and Player A. Score of the match was Team A 3 vs. Team E 2. After the match, Team E reported Coach A was at the match sitting in front of his car less than 20 yards from the field. Team E also reported that Coach A could be heard protesting referee calls.

During the hearing, Team Manager A did not dispute the allegation that Coach A was at the Team D match, could not remember whether or not he was at the Team B match, and disputed the fact that he was at the Team E match.

The league and the R&D Committee do not enforce sit-outs being served. Further, it is not the responsibility of the opposing team nor the referee to ensure that sit-outs be served according to league rules. Compliance with the NCSL sit-out requirements and procedures is based on an honor system and each team is responsible for making sure they comply fully with all league requirements. The R&D Committee does monitor compliance and takes disciplinary action against any coach or player who fails to comply with the requirements for serving a suspension.

In the unanimous opinion of the R&D Committee, Coach A has intentionally and repeatedly violated not only the letter but also the spirit of league sit-out requirements. The committee viewed this pattern of behavior as a most serious violation of the NCSL Leaders Code of Conduct.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game vs. Team B is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team B 3 vs. Team A 0.
2. The game vs. Team D is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team D 3 vs. Team A 0.
3. The game vs. Team E is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team E 3 vs. Team A 0.
4. All cards issued during the above games stand.
5. Team A is fined \$800.
6. Coach A is suspended for one year. This suspension applies to him serving in any capacity (coach, assistant coach, trainer, etc.) as a NCSL team official.

Team A appealed the R&D Committee's decision based on the following:

The purpose of an appeal hearing is to give concerned parties an opportunity to address areas of policy, process or procedure in which the R&D committee erred. The Appeals Committee considered all of the written and/or oral testimony presented by Team A, Team C, Team D, Team E and R&D.

On May 8, 2003, the R&D committee called a hearing to investigate Coach A. The R&D stated that the basis for the hearing was Coach A's long term and repeated disregard of NCSL sit out policy and procedure, beginning in the Spring 2002 season.

The allegations R&D were investigating were related to Coach A's ejection on May 12, 2002, his failure to sit out as prescribed by NCSL policy, and Coach A's failure to follow NCSL policy in the first three games of the NCSL Spring 2003 season.

The basis of Team A's appeal was that the testimony of the Team E's coach was false and that it was used as a major factor in the decision to suspend and fine Coach A. Team A's appeal also included a position that R&D should have investigated the testimony prior to the hearing.

In addition, Team A felt that Coach A had followed "the spirit of the law" as it relates to NCSL sit outs and that his actions and presence at the first three Spring 2003 matches were either agreed to or permitted by opposing coaches and match referees.

Conclusions of the Appeal Committee:

1. Coach A's failure to follow NCSL sit out procedures beginning in the Spring of 2002 and continuing into the first three matches of Spring 2003 were sufficient cause for R&D to bring Coach A in for a hearing into the matter.
2. In gathering information, the R&D followed the same process and procedures that it uses in all other cases of this nature.
3. The fines and suspension assessed to Coach A are consistent with those assessed in similar cases.
4. The R&D hearing was scheduled prior to Team E's match, and that match was not the major factor for either the hearing or the decision.
5. Coach A has coached in the NCSL for four years and is a certified referee. Therefore, he should have been aware of the NCSL sit out procedures and what it takes to satisfy the requirements.
6. Upon repeated questioning by the Appeals Committee and Team A representatives, Coach E changed his testimony and stated that he was mistaken about the identity of the individual he had previously identified as Coach A.

Decision of the Appeals Committee:

By unanimous decision of the Appeals Committee by a vote of 4-0:

1. The admission of Coach E in which he was mistaken about Coach A's identity and therefore his attendance at Team E's match was proof that Coach A was not in attendance at this match. Given this admission, which was not made at the original R&D hearing, the Appeals Committee feels that the \$500.00 appeal fee should be waived.
2. The score of NCSL game Team E vs. Team A will be recorded as the original score Team A 3 Team E 2.
3. The NCSL R&D Committee's decision on the fine of \$800.00 will stand. The \$500.00 appeal fee will be applied to the \$800.00 fine.
4. The suspension of Coach A for one year from the date of the original hearing will stand.

4. U19/2 Protested Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. The basis of the protest was that Coach B was supposed to be serving a suspension during this match but that Coach B did not comply with NCSL Rules & Procedures on serving a suspension.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

Team A alleged that Coach B was involved in pregame activities with his team, remained on the spectator sideline during the match, provided instructions to his team during the match, and met with his team on the field directly after the match.

Coach B acknowledged that he was at the field prior to the match to provide the game card, water, and jerseys for the players. He admitted that he remained in the spectator bleachers during the entire match and that he made only one comment to his team during the match. Coach B also admitted that he walked over to his team at the conclusion of the match to listen to what the assistant coach was telling the team. Coach B stated that another team official coached the team during the match.

When asked, Coach B acknowledged that he did not know the NCSL requirements for a coach serving a suspension. NCSL Rules & Procedures Manual Section V, Paragraph G- Sit-Out Procedures contains the following requirements for serving suspensions:

A coach or team official serving a sit-out is encouraged not to attend the game at all. If a coach or team official does attend, however, he must not be closer to the playing field than 100 yards beginning 30 minutes before game time, **and must remain not closer to the playing field than 100 yards until 30 minutes after the game is over. This period of time is defined as "the sit-out period." During this "sit-out period" a coach or team official must not be involved in any way with administration of the team at the game site, either directly, or indirectly.**

It is clear that Coach B did not comply with the sit-out requirements.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is granted.
2. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded, Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
3. Coach B is suspended for three games. The suspension must be served in the next three Team B NCSL games. If the Team B are not planning to participate in the NCSL or if Coach B changes teams, the sit-outs remain with him and must be served with any new team Coach B joins.

5. U17/1 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately nine minutes remaining in the second half with the score Team A 2 vs. Team B 0.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams and the referee during the hearing.

Near the end of the match, a Team B player was taken down from behind by a Team A player in the penalty area. Both teams agreed that a penalty kick should have been awarded to Team B. Even though the assistant referee had his flag raised for sometime, the referee did not see the foul and when he looked over to the assistant referee, his flag was not raised. After this play, there was considerable dissent from Team B. The referee requested and was not able to get Team B to settle down and therefore he terminated the match. The referee acknowledged during the hearing that he was not in sync with his assistant referees during the match.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The score when the game was terminated stands, Team A 2 vs. Team B 0.
2. All cards issued during the game stand.
3. No disciplinary action is warranted.

6. U17/1 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Chairman of the Rules & Discipline Committee reviewed the incidents which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated in the first half with the score Team A 1 vs. Team B 0.

The referee alleged that Player B assaulted him. At that point, the referee terminated the match.

Referee assault comes under the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Association and requires that the accused be suspended from all USYSA/USSF play. The referee's report was forwarded to MSYSA and the state has taken jurisdiction to resolve the referee's allegation. Therefore, a NCSL R&D Committee hearing was not held.

It is clear that the actions of Team B's players caused the game to be terminated.

Decisions of the R&D Chairman:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. All other cards issued during the game stand.

7. U17/2 Referee Assault

The R&D Chairman received a report from a referee from an NCSL match. In his report the referee alleged that Coach A committed referee assault. Since referee assault falls under the jurisdiction of the state association, the R&D Chairman forwarded the referee's report to the VYSA Adjudication Committee. VYSA took jurisdiction and held a hearing to review the allegations by the referee.

VYSA Adjudication Committee found that Coach A committed coaching misconduct in re-entering the field of play following his ejection and then making dissenting comments during his departure from the field of play. Based on Coach A's prior good record and other character evidence presented, the committee suspended Coach A from his next three NCSL regular sanctioned matches.

8. U17/2 Terminated Game

The above match was terminated at halftime by the referee. The referee reported that during the first half he had to stop play several times to resolve discrepancies between taped numbers on Team A's player jerseys and numbers listed on the game card. Eight discrepancies were discovered and corrected. At half time, the referee in an attempt to clarify players and jersey numbers asked to check Team A player passes. He found that five players did not have passes. At that point, he terminated the match.

Team A provided the following explanation. Team A is using a provisional roster this spring. For the provisional roster this spring, tape is being used to create new numbers in order to deconflict (in lieu of purchasing new uniforms for the provisional team for one season of play). Yesterday's damp weather was causing some of the tape to come off. The teams to which the players are normally rostered were scheduled to play in Memorial Day weekend tournaments this past weekend. The managers of their regular teams had retrieved the players' passes for tournament play, and had not yet returned the passes to the provisional roster manager. No players who are not rostered to the provisional roster played in this match.

While this is a reasonable explanation, it is not an acceptable excuse. Player passes must be at every NCSL match. Using tape to generate new jersey numbers is not desirable but it is acceptable. However, player numbers listed on the game card must match identically with the number on the jersey of the player.

The referee properly terminated the match when he discovered that not all the players participating in the match had player passes at the field.

Decisions of the R&D Chairman:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded, Team B 3 vs. Team A 0.
2. The yellow cards issued during the match stand.
3. The sit-out being served by Assistant Coach A does not count and must be reserved.

9. U17/3 Protest of Red Cards

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. Team A protested three red cards issued during the match.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by TSC, the referee, and the assistant referee during the hearing.

Team A protested the following cards:

- Coach A was issued two yellow cards for dissent and ejected from the match. Team A claimed that the second yellow card was not justified.
- Player A was issued a red card for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity. Team A claimed that the handball was inadvertent and that the wrong player was given the card.
- Assistant Coach A was issued a red card after the match for failure to control his team after the match. Team A claimed that Assistant Coach A was at the other end of the field and unaware that Coach A returned to the field and confronted the referees.

The referee reported that he awarded two yellow cards for persistent dissent to Coach A when he continued to protest the PK and the red carding of Player A. Coach A returned to the field of play after the match, which resulted in a confrontation with the referee crew. Although Coach A was not in the vicinity of this confrontation, the referee issued a red card to Coach A for failure to control his team. Coach A's behavior was inappropriate and he failed to comply with NCSL rules on a coach being ejected from a match.

The referee reported the following sequence of events in issuing the red card to Player A: indirect kick, handball in the penalty box signaled by AR, PK which resulted in a score, red card awarded to offending player for the handball, kickoff. Once the play had restarted with the PK, the referee cannot go back and issue the red card to the offending player. The awarding of the red card to the player is a misapplication of Law 12.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is partially granted; therefore, the league administrator is directed to return the Team A \$200 check.
2. The red card issued to Player A is waived.
3. The red card issued to Assistant Coach A is waived.
4. The red card issued to Coach A stands. Coach A is suspended for an additional game. The sit-outs must be served in the next two Team A NCSL games. If Coach A changes teams, the sit-outs remain with him and must be served with any new team he joins.

10. U17/4 Terminated Game

It was reported to the R&D Chairman the above referenced game was terminated by the referee. Team A started the match with only seven players. After one of the players left the game due to an injury, the referee stopped the match. The score was recorded as Team B 1 vs. Team A 0.

NCSL rules state that if a team does not have a minimum of seven players, the game is a forfeit.

Therefore, the game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded as Team B 3 vs. Team A 0.

11. U16/2 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents, which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately 14 minutes remaining in the second half with the score Team A 4 vs. Team B 1.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, report submitted by the Team A as well as testimony presented by the referee during the hearing. Team B did not submit a report on the incidents of the game. For the record, the R&D Committee requested that both teams send a representative to the hearing but neither team attended.

As the second half continued, the referee reported that some of the Team B players seemed to become increasingly disenchanted with having to be out on the field. Things did not boil over, however, until the 26th minute. At that time, Player B struck a Player B in the face after the ball and play had passed them by. The referee immediately red carded Player B for serious foul play. At that point, the referee had enough, didn't want things to go any further, and decided to terminate the match.

The committee would like to compliment the referee who appeared to do an outstanding job during the match and was very professional during the hearing.

For the record, this is not the first time that Team B has caused a NCSL game to be terminated. During the Fall 2001 season, Team B caused two games to be terminated. At that time it was clear that Team B was having significant problems with its coaching, team management and player performance. The R&D Committee recommended that Team B's club step in and get involved with the management and running of this team so that these reoccurring problems can be addressed. As part of the R&D decision, Team B was put on probation for two seasons in which they participated in the NCSL.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The score when the game was terminated stands, Team A 4 vs. Team B 1.
2. All cards issued during the game stand, including the red cards issued to Player B1 and Player A. If either player changes teams, the suspension remains with them and must be served with any new NCSL team that they join.
3. Player B2 is suspended for four games (1 for the red card and 3 disciplinary). If Player B2 changes teams, the suspension remains with him and must be served with any new NCSL team that he joins.

4. Team B is fined \$300. If Team B disbands, or does not pay for any reason, then Team B's club will be responsible for paying the fine.
5. Team B is suspended from play in the NCSL indefinitely. The team can apply to have this suspension lifted only if they submit a petition to the league officers requesting a hearing for reinstatement.
6. Coach B is suspended from participation in the NCSL indefinitely. This applies to Coach B serving in any capacity as a team official. If Coach B changes teams, the suspension remains with him and applies to any new NCSL team that he joins. Coach B can apply to have this suspension lifted only if he submits a petition to the league officers requesting a hearing for reinstatement.

12. U16/3 Failure to Sit-out

Player A should have served a suspension for carryover of accumulated points in their game played on September 7th. Team A failed to review the sit-out information posted on the web site and did not sit their player.

Decisions of the R&D Chairman:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded, Team B 3 vs. Team A 0.
2. Player A is required to serve his one game suspension in the next Team A NCSL match.

13. U16/3 Protested Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A in the above referenced game. The basis of the protest was that Team A scored a goal which was acknowledged by the referee; however, after the referee consulted with the club linesman, he reversed the call.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

No assistant referees were assigned to the match; therefore, each team provided a volunteer linesman. Coach B informed the referee that his daughter would serve as Team B volunteer linesperson and that she was a certified referee. The pregame instructions by the referee to both volunteer linesman were that they should not call anything but out of bounds.

Midway through the second half, Team A scored a goal. The referee reported that he signaled a goal and placed the ball on the center circle. Team B players were loudly complaining that a Team A player was offside. The referee did not allow the game to restart and went over to the Team B volunteer linesperson and asked her if the Team A player was offside; she said yes. The referee reversed his original call and disallowed the goal. With no outside influence, the opinion of the referee was that Team A scored a goal. The referee did not attempt to determine the facts of what happened when Team A scored the goal; instead, the referee improperly relied on the volunteer linesperson to make the offside call.

Later in the game, the referee reported that he reversed his call on a penalty kick that he awarded to the Team B after he consulted with the Team A volunteer linesman.

The committee recognizes that both volunteer linesman performed their functions properly. The fault lies with the referee for requesting decisions from the volunteer linesman that are outside of their authority.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is granted.
2. The game is directed to be replayed.
3. All cards issued during the match stand.

14. U16/3 Protested Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. Coach B and Team Manager B were supposed to be serving suspension in this game. The basis of the protest was that neither coach nor manager honored the sit-out procedures.

The R&D Committee reviewed the protest filed by Team A, reports submitted by the referee, assistant referee, and Team B as well as testimony by both teams and the referee crew during the hearing.

During the first half, Team A reported to the assistant referee that Coach B was on the spectator sideline providing indirect coaching direction to his team. The referee stopped the match and directed the Coach B to leave the area. Team B and Coach B did not dispute the fact that Coach B was at the match. Team B disputed the allegation that he was providing coaching instruction during the match.

Team Manager B admitted that he went to the match to provide transportation for his son and to pass on the manager's responsibilities to another Tam B parent. He stated that he did leave the area and was 100 yards from the field during the match. The referee corroborates Team Manager B's account.

NCSL rule is clear: a coach serving a sit-out is encouraged not to attend the game at all. If a coach does attend, he must not be closer to the playing field than 100 yards beginning 30 minutes before game time, and must remain not closer to the playing field than 100 yards until 30 minutes after the game is over. During this period, a coach must not be involved in any way with the coaching or administration of the team at the game site, either directly or indirectly.

The purpose of the rule should be obvious. How can the committee determine whether or not he is involved in coaching his team if a coach does not comply with the 100 yard rule?

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is granted and the game is declared a forfeit. The score will be recorded as Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. The sit-out served by Coach B does not count and must be reserved in the in the next Team B NCSL game. If Coach B changes teams, the suspension remains with him and must be served with any new NCSL team that he joins.
3. The sit-out served by Team Manager B counts.
4. All other cards issued in the game stand.

15. U16/4 Terminated Game

It was reported to the R&D Chairman that the referee called the game before it started because the field was not properly prepared.

If nets and lines are not in place when the referee is ready to begin the game, the home team forfeits.

Decision of the R&D Committee:

The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded as Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.

16. U16/4 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents which caused the above referenced game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately 10 minutes remaining in the second half with the score Team A 5 vs. Team B 1.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

During the second half, the referee reported that the game continued to get even more physical, and came to a head in the 60th minute of the match. Player B and Player A began pushing each other and then started striking each other before it was broken up. The referee issued red cards to both players. At that point, the referee ended the match after he determined he could no longer ensure the safety of the players on the field.

Team Manager B reported that during this match a player issued a red card was wearing the wrong jersey number. This information was not reported or annotated on the game card.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The score when the game was terminated stands, Team A 5 vs. Team B 1.
2. The red card issued to the player wearing the wrong jersey during the match was assigned to the correct player. For future reference, Team B is directed to make sure any roster changes on game day must be noted on the blue game card prior to the match.
3. All other cards issued during the game stand.
4. No other disciplinary action is warranted.

17. U15/2 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents which caused the above referenced game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately five minutes remaining in the second half with the score Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

The referee terminated the match as a result of inflammatory behavior, aggressive attitude and taunting of assistant referee and referee by the Team B spectators. Spectators ignored verbal warnings to refrain from comments. After the match, the referee reported Manger B and Parent B were verbally abusive.

During the hearing, Parent B acknowledged that he was very upset over the ejection of his son from the match. He admitted he persisted during and after the match to get further clarification of the ejection and to challenge the referee's decision. Parent A conceded that he caused the game to be terminated.

Coaches may approach the referee after the match to request from the referee what cards were issued during the match. However, this must not be taken as an opportunity to challenge or dispute the calls made during the match.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. All cards issued during the game stand.
3. Team B is fined \$300.

18. U15/2 Protest of Red Card

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the R&D Chairman reviewed the protest filed by Team A in the above referenced game. The basis of the protest was the referee issued a red card to the wrong player.

Team A stated the referee issued the red card to Player A1 when in fact Player A2 committed the offense and should have received the red card. The R&D Chairman reviewed the referee's report and the referee acknowledged he could have made a mistake in identity. The referee correctly reported that he did not have the authority to change the assignment of the card after play had resumed.

Team Manager A reported Player A2 has served the automatic one game suspension.

Decision of the R&D Chairman:

The protest is granted and the red card and subsequent sit-out will be reassigned to Player A2.

19. U15/2 Protested Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. The basis of the protest was that the assistant referee was a parent of a Team B player and that neither the referee, assistant referee, nor Team B complied with NCSL rules on an immediate family member serving as an assistant referee.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

Team A felt that the offside decisions during the match clearly favored the Team B. Team A stated that a goal they scored was called offside by the Team B assistant referee; Team A argued that they were not offside. Team A further stated that a Team B goal was allowed to stand when Team B was offside but no call was made by the Team B assistant referee. Team B felt that the calls were fair and the Team B assistant referee was calling it both ways. The R&D Committee could not make a decision on whether or not the offside calls were correct or not.

The referee reported that prior to the start of the match, he had no assigned assistant referees. The referee requested each team provided an assistant referee for the match. Parent B was a certified referee and he changed into uniform. The referee requested both the Team B assistant referee and the Team A volunteer linesman who was not a certified referee to call offside and fouls. During the match, the Team A volunteer linesman did flag offside and fouls.

Team B and the Parent B assistant referee clearly erred in not complying with the NCSL requirement to notify their opponent when a family member steps in to serve as an assistant referee. While the league encourages parents who are certified referees to step up when needed and serve as a center referee or assistant referee, the agreement of both coaches must be obtained prior to the start of the match.

The referee cannot request an uncertified volunteer to serve as an assistant referee; the volunteer does not have the appropriate training to call offside and fouls. The duties of a volunteer linesman must be limited to calling out of bounds and direction only.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is granted.
2. The game is directed to be replayed.

20. U15/4 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated in the second half with approximately two minutes remaining with the score Team A 2 vs. Team B 0.

The committee reviewed reports submitted by both teams, the referee, and the assistant referee as well as testimony presented by Team A, the referee, and the assistant referee during the hearing. For the record, Team B was required to attend but failed to participate in the hearing.

During the first half, the referee had to speak with a group of Team B parents concerning their persistent berating of his calls. As a result of comments directed toward the referee Parent B was asked to leave the area near the end of the game. While leaving, Player A made a comment such as thank you. Parent B turned around and made an obscene gesture toward the player. Then Parent A attempted to confront Parent B. At this point, the referee terminated the match.

The remark by Player A toward Parent B was inappropriate. The behavior of Parent B was totally unacceptable and the obscene gesture directed towards a youth player was exceedingly in bad taste.

In his report, Coach B acknowledged that it was the inappropriate behavior of one of his parents, which resulted in the match being terminated.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. All cards issued during the game stand.
3. Team B is fined \$400.

21. U15/4 Protest of Red Card

The Rules & Discipline Committee Chairman determined that a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A was not required. Instead the R&D Chairman polled the committee members. The basis of the protest was that the actions of Player A did not warrant a red card ejection from the match.

The R&D Committee reviewed the protest and supplemental statements submitted by Team A, report submitted by the referee and a follow-up statement submitted by the referee based on questions raised by the committee.

The referee reported that Player A was dribbling towards the Team B goal. A Team B defender made a tackle stripping the ball away and Player A tripped over the extended left leg of the defender. In the referee's opinion, this was not a foul, but a near perfect tackle of the ball. Coach A was quite vocal in his objection to the no call. He felt the take down should have resulted in a penalty kick. The referee motioned for the coach to calm down and be quiet, then the referee yellow carded Coach A when his protests continued. Player A objected to the yellow card for his coach and the referee red carded him for using insulting language. The referee stated that the decision could have been a yellow or red card.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is granted.
2. The red card to Player A is reduced to a yellow card and five associated disciplinary points.

22. U14/3 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately 13 minutes remaining in the second half with the score Team A 2 vs. Team B 2.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

The referee called a foul against Player A. As the referee was in the process of issuing a yellow card to Player A, he heard Coach B holler that he should issue a red card. After administering the yellow card to Player A, the referee turned to Coach

B and requested that he remain quiet. The referee issued a yellow card to the Coach for dissent. According to the referee, Coach B then literally exploded complaining how could he issue him a yellow card. The coach continued to holler, and the referee displayed a second yellow followed by a red and asked him to leave the field. At that point, the referee terminated the match.

After the termination, both at the field and in the parking, Coach B and Assistant Coach B approached the referee crew to continue the confrontation over the terminated game. In addition, a young man, later identified as Coach B's older son, complained using profanity about the match being terminated.

The inappropriate confrontational behavior both during and after the match by Team B officials and nonrostered Team B representative is totally inappropriate and unacceptable.

Team B was involved in another terminated game this season played on May 4, 2003. In the previous decision issued for that game, the R&D Committee found Team B and Coach B was in large part responsible for the termination of the match. The R&D committee found this to be a very disturbing pattern of inappropriate behavior.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. Coach B is suspended for four games, three disciplinary suspensions in addition to the automatic one game suspension for receiving a red card in this game. These sit-outs must be served in the in the next four Team B NCSL games. If Coach B changes teams, the suspensions remain with him and must be served with any new NCSL team that he joins.
3. Team B is fined \$400.
4. All other cards issued during the game stand.

23. U14/3 Terminated Game

In accordance with the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual, the Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated at halftime with the score Team A 2 vs. Team B 0.

The committee reviewed reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams and the referee during the hearing.

During a goal scoring by Team A, a Team B player was injured after he ran into the goal post and an ambulance had to be called. The referee called no foul. Before restarting the match, the referee did talk to both teams and coaches and requested both teams to calm down. However, once the play was restarted, the referee received continuous verbal abuse from Team B coaches, players and spectators.

At halftime, Coach B approached the referee to talk about the calls made. Shortly afterwards, representatives of both teams were near the referee. At that point, the referee terminated the match.

In the opinion of the committee, Team B was in large part responsible for the termination of the match.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. All cards issued during the game stand.

24. U13/3 Terminated Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents, which caused the game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately a couple minutes remaining in the second half with the score Team A 3 vs. Team B 1.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing. Jim Frazee, NCSL VA Commissioner, arrived at the field near half time since his WAGS team had the next match on the field. Mr. Frazee submitted a detailed report as well as testimony at the hearing.

Acting Coach B dissented calls throughout the match. Near the end of the match, the referee ejected Acting Coach B. Acting Coach B removed himself from the team sideline to the parent sideline. Acting Coach B walked no more than 30 yards from the parent sideline continuing to voice his displeasure with the referee. The referee attempted to require the coach to go to the parking lot but Parent B stepped in front of the referee and directed him to go back to the field. At this point the

referee terminated the match. Acting Coach B returned to the field to meet with his team still complaining about the quality of officiating.

Team B informed the R&D Committee that they recently hired Acting Coach B. The fact that Acting Coach B was recently hired and unfamiliar with NCSL Rules and Procedures is neither justification for his inappropriate behavior at a youth soccer match nor reason for his failure to comply with rules on being ejected and prohibition of returning to the field after the match. The current Team B coach accepted responsibility for failing to make sure Acting Coach B was informed and complied with NCSL Rules and Procedures and apologized for Acting Coach B's inappropriate behavior.

It was noted that no Team Sportsmanship Liaison was designated on the game card for Team B. Having a designated TSL is required, and had one who understood the duties been assigned for this match, problems with inappropriate behavior could have been avoided.

The inappropriate confrontational behavior both during and after the match by Team B officials is totally inappropriate and unacceptable.

Acting Coach B has served his automatic one game suspension for receiving a red card in this game.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded, Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. Acting Coach B is suspended for two additional games. These sit-outs must be served in the in the next two Team B NCSL games. Team B is advised that if Acting Coach B is to continue as their coach, he must be added to the roster as soon as possible.
3. Team B is fined \$300.
4. All other cards issued during the game stand.

25. U13/3 Protested Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee Chairman determined that a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A in the above referenced game was not required. Instead the R&D Chairman polled the committee members. The basis of the protest was that Team A was not informed prior to the start of the match and they did not agree to have the older son of the Coach B's referee the match.

Team A reported that they only discovered that Coach B's son refereed the match at the conclusion of the game when they questioned the referee concerning a misapplication of FIFA.

Coach B reported that the assigned referee for the match did not show and the assign assistant referee for the match was not able to step up to center the match. Coach B further stated in his report that in the rush to find a referee for the match, he neglected to inform Coach A that he asked his son to step in and center the match. The referee reported that he did not inform the Coach A that he was the son of the Coach B.

NCSL rules state that the referee must inform and get agreement from both coaches if one member of the crew is an immediate family member of a player. In addition, the team utilizing the family member as a referee or assistant referee has an obligation to ensure that their opponent is informed of the family relationship of the referee or assistant referee. In either of the above situations, the agreement of both coaches **must** be noted on the game report card prior to the start of play and **must** be initialed by them.

Decisions of the R&D Chairman:

1. The protest is granted.
2. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded, Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
3. All cards issued in the match stand.

26. U13/3 Protest of Red Card

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. The basis of the protest was that the red card issued to Coach A after the game was not warranted.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by Team A during the hearing.

Coach A stated that he approached the referee after the match to ask him a question. Coach A claimed that the referee did not want to speak with him and warned him that he would issue him a red card if he did not shut up. Coach A continued to speak with the referee and informed him that he called a good game.

The referee reported that Coach A protested calls and made enough dissenting comments that he had to stop the match to warn the coach about his behavior. No card was issued during the match. After the match, the referee issued Coach A a red card because he persisted in his comments directed at the referee.

It appears that Coach A was not threatening or belligerent in his remarks; however, he was argumentative and persistent.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The protest is denied.
2. The red card issued to Coach A stands. The sit-out must be served in the next Team A NCSL games. If Coach A changes teams, the sit-out remains with him and must be served with any new team he joins.

27. U13/6 Protested Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. Although Team A raised a number of issues in their protest, the basis of Team A's protest was an allegation that Team B played illegal players that are rostered to the U14 Team B.

The league and the R&D Committee takes seriously any allegations that a team played ineligible player(s) whether or not those players are rostered to another NCSL team. Further, the committee reviews any allegation of a team playing a player declared ineligible as a result of the player's requirement to serve a suspension.

It is important to point out that the first level to check player credentials is on the field prior to the start of the game. NCSL rules state that "referees will check cards only if asked by one of the coaches to do so." Neither team asked the referee to check the player passes before the start of the match.

In accordance with the testimony of the participants, and at the request of the Team A's management, the Assistant Referee did, at the end of the game, check the passes of the four Team B players in question that arrived at half time.

To ensure fairness to both teams and to complete due diligence, the R&D Committee:

1. checked a copy of the Team B's U13 official team roster;
2. checked the game card and the attached team roster; and
3. checked the player passes of all eighteen Team B U13 players.

It should be noted that the check of the Team B U13 team credentials was performed jointly by a certified referee and a certified register. No anomalies were discovered.

For completeness the committee also:

4. obtained a statement from the Team B U14 coach regarding player involvement; and
5. reviewed a copy of the official roster for the Team B's U14 team to ensure player identification.

The Team B U13 team management was cooperative in providing all requested information and offered to provide players and their birth certificates if requested.

The committee found no evidence that Team B allowed the participation of ineligible players.

Team A alleged that the four Team B players that arrived late and played the entire second half must have been from the older Team B since they turned a tight 1-1 game into a 5-1 final score. Team B management stated that four of their best players got lost on their way to the match and that they did contribute significantly to the four goals scored in the second half. The Team B explanation seemed significantly more reasonable than the unsubstantiated opinion proposed by Team A.

In the unanimous opinion of the committee, the Team A protest was without merit. The fact that Team A was unhappy with the outcome of the match is not justification to file a protest.

On a separate note, the committee found that the referee failed to accurately report important details of the match; he incorrectly reported the score of the match and failed to record the caution(s) he issued during the match on the game card. The match report submitted by the referee did not adequately address the issues raised.

Decision of the R&D Committee:

The protest is denied and the score stands, Team B 5 vs. Team A 1.

28. U13/6 Terminated Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the incidents, which caused the above referenced game to be terminated. The game was terminated with approximately two minutes remaining in the first half with the score Team A 1 vs. Team B 0.

The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

The referee reported that near the end of the first half, there was a 50-50 ball just in front of him. Player B and Player A collided and Player B went down. The referee called Coach B onto the field. Coach B removed the injured player from the field and complained that a foul should have been called. As Coach B exited the field, he called his team off the field. Coach B decided not to continue the match.

Coach B reported that his players were constantly being fouled and that the referee took no action. Coach B stated that he was forced to intervene to protect his players. Coach B stated during the hearing that one of his players suffered a serious injury in a previous game this season. In his report, Coach B claimed that winning or losing this game was of no importance to either team.

The committee is not in position to judge the seriousness of the injury to the player or the compilation of injuries during the season, which caused Coach B to pull his team from the match. However, the committee is concerned about protecting the integrity of the league and stressing the importance that every match should be played to completion. The outcome of the match may not have been of consequence to the Team B but it certainly was important to Team A and could have had an impact concerning promotion or disqualification for the other teams in U13/6.

Decisions of the R&D Committee:

1. The game is declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded as, Team A 3 vs. Team B 0.
2. Coach B is suspended for two games. The suspension must be served in the next two Team A NCSL games. If Coach B changes teams between season, the sit-outs remain with him and must be served with any new NCSL team that he joins.

29. U12/2 Protest of Game

The Rules & Discipline Committee held a hearing to review the protest filed by Team A. The basis of Team A's protest was extreme favoritism by the referee. The committee reviewed the referee's report, reports submitted by both teams as well as testimony presented by both teams during the hearing.

In the written protest document, Team A alleged that the referee miss applied so many FIFA rules that the summation of all the miss application of rules culminated in a result that was predetermined by the referee. Team A further described in detail six separate items, which supported their position. The referee was not able to attend the hearing but he provided a detailed report that addressed each allegation made by Team A.

During the hearing, the committee questioned Team Manager A and asked him to specifically explain any misapplication of FIFA rules. Team Manager A was unable to identify one situation where the referee misapplied FIFA rules.

In reviewing the detailed protest document submitted by Team A along with the referee's report, the committee determined that each alleged misapplication of FIFA rules was in fact a judgement call by the referee. NCSL Rules & Procedures Manual explicitly states that incidents resulting from judgment calls may not be protested.

The referee stated that he had neither interest nor intent to influence the outcome of the match. He further stated that neither he nor any family members has any association with Team B.

The committee compliments the referee for his timely submission of a detailed and candid report of the match.

In the unanimous opinion of the committee, the Team A protest was without merit. The fact that Team A was unhappy with the outcome of the match is not justification to file a protest.

Decision of the R&D Committee:

The protest is denied and the score stands, Team B 2 vs. Team A 1.

30. U11/2 Unrostered Player

It was reported to the R&D Committee Chairman and confirmed that Team A played an unrostered player for its games played during the first weekend of the Fall 2003 season. All players participating in NCSL matches must be properly rostered to their team.

Decisions of the R&D Chairman:

1. Both games are declared a forfeit and the score will be recorded, Team B 3 vs. Team A 0 and Team C 3 vs. Team A 0.
2. Team A is directed to either properly roster their player prior to their next NCSL match or make sure that he does not participate until properly rostered.