

Referee Abuse Policy (RAP)

Guidance for Implementation



U.S. Soccer recently announced a new **Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP)** policy that sets minimum expectations for suspensions for individuals who violate the policy. With this policy now in effect for all member organizations of U.S. Soccer, this will apply to all affiliated matches you are officiating.

Learn more about the new **Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP)** policy [here](#).

As this policy is implemented around the country, please keep the following in mind:

- **The Laws of the Game have not changed**, just the suspension required by U.S. Soccer for infractions of the Referee Abuse policy.
- **Do not change the way you officiate a game as a result of this policy.**
- Continue to utilize the techniques taught by U.S. Soccer and CNRA to proactively manage behavior from the coaches, players and spectators to prevent the need for misconduct. You can learn more about those techniques [here](#).
- Review the examples of behaviors outlined in the policy to re-evaluate the kinds of behaviors that warrant a response of some kind from the referee.

The intent of this policy is **not** to see a significant increase in red cards for things that have not been red cards in the past. The goal is to create stronger consequences to prevent the behavior from happening.

Until that national reporting process is in place, please follow the instructions below when this policy is violated in a game:

- The referee of the match should complete the standard red card reporting process, and submit any reporting to the governing body of the match (i.e. NorCal, Cal North, etc.). This is the same process that would be followed when any red card is issued.
 - This form should be submitted even if a red card was not issued during a game in which a violation of the Referee Abuse policy occurred.
- Any red card report or Supplemental Report submitted for a violation of the Referee Abuse policy should also be sent to CNRA. Simply email a PDF of the report to rapreport@cnra.net.
 - Note: this is only for red cards issued for referee abuse as described in the U.S. Soccer policy.
 - Exception: NorCal will automatically forward reports from NorCal matches, so the referee does not need to email CNRA a copy.

If you have any questions specific to the implementation of this policy, or if you need support in addressing any issues that arise as this policy is implemented, please email rap@cnra.net and CNRA staff will get back to you as soon as possible.