



MLS FIGHTING POLICY



MLS Officials will not tolerate foul language, physical contact, or disruptive / aggressive behavior on the fields at any time, whether involuntary or not. A courtesy “warning” before an EJECTION or FORFEIT MAY be given, but it is NOT required.

We expect our adult participants to act like adults with emotional & physical self-control. Our officials should not be expected to break up fights putting themselves at risk of harm ... public park patrons should not have to be exposed to violence and foul language while visiting with friends & family ... other league participants should not feel uncomfortable playing due to a few bad apples who CANNOT control themselves.



PLAYING IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. MLS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISALLOW ANY TEAM(S) WE FEEL DO NOT CONDUCT THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY ON THE FIELDS.

See below for the rule as it is shown online in your city program’s ruleset regarding ejections and/or suspensions due to player behavior:

Ejected/Suspended players are NOT allowed at the park while serving their suspension.

Any player / team may be suspended from MLS play indefinitely if MLS Administrative Staff feel it is warranted.

- 1) **All grievances shall be conducted in a CALM manner by the team manager or designated team representative ONLY.**
- 2) **It is the MANAGER / COACH’s job to control their players, not MLS officials. MLS officials are there to get rid of the problem.**
- 3) Any player ejected from any game will be **automatically suspended** for a minimum of TWO (2) additional games.
 - If the same player is ejected more than once (any day/city) they may be suspended for the season OR longer at MLS’ discretion.
- 4) If any ejected player(s) does not leave the field and proceed with exiting the park within 60 seconds after the ejection, **OR if the game is out of control**, the game will be declared a forfeit, and further penalties may be applied as needed at MLS’ discretion.
- 5) Ejections may occur at any time BEFORE, DURING or AFTER a game. Anytime a player is ejected **AFTER** the conclusion of a game (this includes the end-of-game “handshake line”), the player(s) will be **automatically suspended** for the next THREE (3) games.
- 6) Suspensions will include playoff/championship games, they can roll over into the next season, and BYE weeks do not constitute a game.

7) **PHYSICAL CONTACT:** **AGGRESSIVE / PHYSICAL CONTACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. PENALTIES WILL BE IMMEDIATE AND SEVERE.**

INDIVIDUALS: Any team participant who physically abuses (in any manner & for any reason) an MLS Official, another player, or city staff, shall be suspended from ALL MLS sponsored programs indefinitely. ***In addition, any individuals who are guilty of such action will be subject to criminal prosecution as per the State of California Penal Code.*** Re-instatement **may** be considered if the suspended player(s) email a **written** “request for review” to MLS CUSTOMER SERVICE. A decision will be determined by MLS Administration and the request may be denied. ***No reviews will be considered until at minimum of ONE FULL YEAR of suspension has been served.***

TEAMS: If multiple players engage in a physical incident resulting in a FORFEIT; the ENTIRE TEAM will be subject to suspension.

8) **SPECTATOR HARASSMENT:** In cases of spectator harassment, when an MLS Official has determined that the spectator is associated with one of the teams, the MLS Official will use the following course of action:

- **FIRST & ONLY WARNING** - the team manager will be asked to take care of the problem spectator, or the game will be a forfeit.
- **FINAL SOLUTION** - the game will be declared a forfeit and depending on the severity of the event, the team may also face further suspension at the discretion of MLS Administration.