

AMATEUR COUNCIL PENALTY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Overview of Bylaws

Current bylaws outline the composition and procedures of the Adult Penalty Committee (**ARTICLE VIII.I.C**). The Penalty Committee (hereafter referred to as PC) convenes when deemed necessary by the adult council Vice-President. Historically, the PC has met to discuss particularly egregious red cards, especially those involving Violent Conduct or those involving repeat offenders. Most referrals to the PC come from the referee association as a result of an official referee game report, though by no means is the PC limited to direct referee referrals.

Meetings may be held “electronically” and business conducted via email. Electronic meetings should not prevent satisfying the additional requirements of a PC meeting, such as the right of interested parties to “be present,” which may be satisfied with a written statement from those parties. Those people who are involved in a PC hearing should be notified of the time and place of the hearing. Players sent off have the right to request a hearing within 72 hours of the send off.

The PC is supposed to submit its recommendation to the amateur council for ratification. In general, the entire adult council has served on the PC. Council decisions may be appealed in writing to the Executive Board within **10 days** of written notification to the player or coach.

Overview of BRSA-Specific League Rules

BRSA amateur leagues (Mens Open, Mens Over-30, Womens Open, Womens Over-30, Co-ed Open, Co-ed Over 30, Over-40) follow for the most part the Laws of the Game as determined by USSF as well as the bylaws of USASA and LSA. There are a few notable exceptions:

1. No slide tackles are allowed in any *league defined for players over 30*. Slide tackles in these leagues are considered and treated by the referee as “dangerous play.”
2. Goals scored by women in *co-ed leagues* during the regular course of play are counted as 2 points.
3. Penalty kicks scored by women in *co-ed over 30* count as 2 points.
4. Penalty kicks must be taken by women in *co-ed open* and count only as 1 point.
5. Women are not allowed to play in men-only leagues, and men are not allowed to play in women-only leagues.
6. *Women Over-30 league* allows for guest players under circumstances outlined in its league policy.
7. *Over-40 league* is 7-v-7 (8 players allowed if there are at least 2 female players on the field for a team) and self-refereed. All free kicks are indirect.
8. *Over-40 league* allows for guest players across teams within the league.

Rules may differ in BRSA-sponsored tournaments.

Assessing Penalties

“In the event the Penalty Committee assesses a more severe penalty than the minimum contained in the general playing rules which pertain to the applicable league, the player/coach will be notified, with follow-up in writing of such penalty.” These sanctions should be considered guidelines only. **Lesser or more severe sanctions may be assessed at the discretion of the PC based on the particular circumstances of the match.**

Suspension may cross seasons, if necessary. At the discretion of the Penalty Committee, depending upon the infraction, suspensions may also cross leagues if the player is in multiple leagues. Suspensions may also be satisfied with sitting out local tournament games if the tournament is the next scheduled game for the team for which the ejection occurred.

Probation crosses seasons AND leagues.

Red Cards (other than Violent Conduct)

1. First send off—1 game suspension
2. Second send off—2 game suspension
3. Third send off—3 game suspension + 6 months probation
4. Subsequent send offs—Extended suspension + extended probationary period to be determined

Red Cards (Violent Conduct)

1. First VC send off—2 game suspension + \$25 fine
2. Second VC send off—3 game suspension + \$50 fine + 6 month probation
3. Third VC send off—Extended suspension + \$75 fine + extended probationary period to be determined
4. Subsequent VC send off—5-year suspension.

Yellow Cards

1. Fifth card within soccer year (Sept 1 – Aug 31)—1 game suspension
2. Sixth card or more within a soccer year—sanction to be determined by the Penalty Committee.

Illegal Players

Should a team be caught intentionally and knowingly allowing an illegal player—a player either not registered with BRSA for the current season or one registered with a different team or league for which there is no guest-player policy—that team will be subject to *severe* sanctions and penalties:

1. Forfeiture of next regularly scheduled game and/or team bond
2. Three (3) game suspension for the team captain or player acting as team captain.
3. Three (3) game suspension for the illegal player IF that player is registered with BRSA.

Match Terminations

A referee has full authority to terminate a game if a player, coach, or spectator becomes unruly or physically menaces a referee or other player. Any person causing such disruption shall come under the jurisdiction of the Penalty Committee. A team shall forfeit its next regularly scheduled game if its conduct causes a game to be prematurely terminated (abandoned by the referee). The team or teams will be also be required to post a new team bond, in keeping with the association forfeiture rules. The referee shall state in the game misconduct report which team or if both teams caused termination.

Any cautions or send-offs in the forfeited game are still subject to penalties according to the red/yellow card guidelines.

Referee Assault

Any player or coach or spectator who assaults the referee shall be suspended immediately from all leagues and shall be subject to a hearing by a LSA appointed committee.