

Excerpt from WSYSA Administrative Handbook:

214.3 Touchline Misconduct

(a) "Touchline Misconduct" is a verbal statement or action that impedes, distracts, interferes or delays in any manner a referee (including assistant referees or fourth officials) from the duties of his/her game management. Such misconduct may occur before, during and after a match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur at later times when directly related to the duties or actions of a referee. Touchline Misconduct is not restricted to actions at the touchline or a match. Touchline Misconduct does not include written reports or comments to a referee assignor or other supervisory personnel.

(b) Touchline Misconduct does not include assault or abuse of a referee under USSF Policy 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 (which must be heard by the WSYSA Appeals Committee). Touchline Misconduct is applicable to all participants as defined in WSYSA Rule 214.4. Where a participant is charged with a violation of USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4, the participant may also be charged with Touchline Misconduct. The panel hearing the charges of violation of USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4, may determine at the same time if Touchline Misconduct occurred. It is not necessary that there be a finding of a violation of USSF Policy 531-9 or WSYSA Rule 214.4 for there to be a finding of a violation of Touchline Misconduct. Where a participant is not charged with a violation of USSF Policy 531-9 and/or WSYSA Rule 214.4, the Touchline Misconduct charge shall be heard by the applicable Disciplinary committee.

(c) Penalties for Touchline Misconduct may include a suspension or ban for one game up to five games. The suspended games are not necessarily to be served within the competition, but within any WSYSA sanctioned event. The game suspension definition will be determined by the hearing authority. In unusual circumstances or with repeat offenders, a suspension or ban may be increased up to six months. Alternative or additional sanctions may include proof of successful completion of referee certification course and/or anger management courses, and/or similar type training.