



MSYSA Discipline and Appeals Procedure *Hearings Held by MSYSA*

REQUESTING A HEARING

In order for a hearing to take place with the MSYSA Discipline and Appeals Committee, 3 things must occur.

- 1) *Alleged Infraction* – A specific League/MSYSA/USYS/USSF Bylaw, Rule, Regulation, or Policy that was allegedly broken, ignored, or not followed.

Protested judgment calls made by a referee during game play will most likely not result in a hearing because calls made during a game are left up to the discretion of the referee. A Committee can not make a ruling on the judgment of a referee as it relates to the Rules of the Game.

- 2) *Official Complaint Filed* – MSYSA receives written notification requesting a hearing take place. Complaints cannot be filed anonymously or orally. Complaint must include the alleged infraction and the individual(s) involved. All game and/or referee related issues should also include the game report.
- 3) Supporting Documents – Gathered by complainant(s) to support their position for a hearing being held.

Hearings held by MSYSA:

- Inter-league conflicts
 - Conflicts between clubs or teams within 2 different leagues
- Allegations of misconduct *towards* a game official
 - Referee Assault
 - Referee Abuse
- Allegations of misconduct *by* a game official (during any competition)
- Conflicts occurring during an MSYSA event (State Cup, ODP, etc)
- League decision appeals (\$250 appeal fee applies)

Hearings held by League:

- Conflicts within the same team
- Conflicts within the same club
- Conflicts between clubs or teams within that same league
- Violations of league rules, regulations, policies or bylaws

Hearings held by a Tournament

- Conflicts that took place during that competition (except for misconduct towards game officials)



REQUEST GRANTED/DENIED

The MSYSA Discipline and Appeals Chair reviews the documents to ensure that all the criterion are met to hold a hearing.

If the request is granted, a hearing date is scheduled and the official hearing notice is sent out not less than 10 business days before the date of the hearing. All supporting documents received to date are also enclosed with the hearing notice. These materials will be sent to all parties involved, which include the affiliated leagues and associations. Once the hearing date is scheduled, both parties involved are allowed to send in additional documentation to the MSYSA State Office in support of their position. All materials must be received at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing date.

If the request is denied, notification will be sent out describing why it was denied. A hearing can be denied for multiple reasons, some common reasons are listed below:

- An infraction did not happen
- Involved a referee's judgment of the Rules of the Game during game play
- Materials received did not justify the hearing request or was insufficient
- Incident is pending a civil lawsuit
- Incident has already been resolved
- Incident should first be addressed by the affiliated league or tournament

HEARING DATE AND OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

A hearing is held to gather information and obtain the facts about a specific incident. It is not a court proceeding. The involvement of an attorney, or another legal counsel, is discouraged.

The official hearing notification will describe the alleged infraction based on the complaint. It will also state the date, time, and location of hearing. A description of the possible consequences if found guilty will also be described in this notice.

On the date of the hearing, parties involved are welcome to bring in any witnesses or character references for the Committee to question. Parties involved are able to bring in additional documents and materials for the Committee at the hearing, however, it is not mandatory for those materials to be included in rendering a decision. Be mindful that materials needing significant time to read and analyze should be submitted to the MSYSA State Office five (5) business days prior to the hearing to allow the Committee adequate time to review.

The attendance of all parties involved is mandatory. The Committee, at their discretion, is able to reschedule the hearing date if the MSYSA State Office is adequately notified before the hearing takes place. If one of the parties is absent for the hearing, and no attempt was made to notify the State Office, the Committee is within their right to make a decision based on the testimony presented at the hearing and materials received to date.

The rules of the hearing are to be described at the time of the hearing, by the Committee Chairman. The hearing may be recorded. A record of the hearing can be made if requested.



**Michigan State Youth Soccer Association is dedicated to excellence
in leading, educating, and serving the soccer community.**



Under USSF Bylaw 701 Hearing Procedures, Section 1

- (a) *In all hearings conducted under these bylaws, the parties shall be accorded:*
- 1. Notice of the specific charges or alleged violations in writing and possible consequences if the charges are found to be true;*
 - 2. Reasonable time between receipt of the notice of charges and the hearing within which to prepare a defense;*
 - 3. The right to have the hearing conducted at a time and place so as to make it practicable for the person charged to attend;*
 - 4. A hearing before a disinterested and impartial body of fact-finders;*
 - 5. The right to be assisted in the presentation of one's case at the hearing;*
 - 6. The right to call witnesses and present oral and written evidence and argument;*
 - 7. The right to confront witnesses, including the right to be provided the identity of witnesses in advance of the hearing;*
 - 8. The right to have a record made of the hearing if desired;*
 - 9. A written decision, with reasons for the decision, based solely on the evidence of record, issued in a timely fashion, with all Federation grievance decisions posted on the Federation website, and sent to the Board of Directors and all Organizational Members;*
 - 10. Notice of any substantive and material action of the hearing panel in the course of the proceedings; and*
 - 11. Quality concerning communications, and no ex parte communication is permitted between a party and any person involved in making its decision or procedural determination except to provide explanations involving procedures to be followed.*

THE DECISION

Once the hearing concludes, the Committee will deliberate and come to a decision. The decision will describe a finding of guilty or not guilty. If found guilty, the decision will describe the consequences of that infraction as well as possible consequences if the decision is ignored, manipulated, or not adhered to by the guilty party.

Both parties involved will receive the decision within 10 business days from the date of the hearing, along with the affiliated leagues and associations.

An appeal of the decision made by the Committee (if found guilty) can be filed with USSF by following the procedures outlined in USSF Bylaw 705, *Appeals Procedures*. The appeal must be received by USSF within 10 days from the receipt of the decision made by the Committee.



**Michigan State Youth Soccer Association is dedicated to excellence
in leading, educating, and serving the soccer community.**

