



February 3, 2025

Dear Club and League Representatives:

US Soccer has updated its [policy \(531-9\)](#), effective March 1, 2025, on referee assault, abuse, and/or gross misconduct towards referees. [The amended policy now includes a penalties matrix.](#) Please read and review. Note: [MSYSA Rule 5.3 \(F\)](#) was recently amended to point to US Soccer's amended policy.

US Soccer believes the changes to Policy 531-9 are necessary to protect referees and to make our sport safer. Please share this information with players, coaches, parents, and spectators as it now includes definitive offenses for physical and non-physical offenses toward referees. For reference, non-physical offenses include verbal taunting, harassment/intimidation, and offensive or discriminatory acts. Physical offenses include minor touching, intentional confrontation, and violent contact.

US Soccer, and MSYSA, encourages you to do your part in sharing this information and by formally reporting referee abuse so that it can be promptly addressed. When reporting, please be sure to include match details and all relevant information. To make a report, please use MSYSA's referee/assault abuse online reporting form by clicking [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Thomas Faro
Executive Director



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