

Discipline Report Guide



Lac St-Louis Referee Department

Preface

This guide has been created with the input of the Regional Referee Committee to support Lac St-Louis Soccer referees through the discipline report writing process. It offers best practice to ensure the Regional Discipline Committee (RDC) can make the most fair and accurate decisions.

Reports must be accurate and complete. A low-quality report may lead to the RDC reducing or removing sanctions. Here are some of the errors that should be eliminated:

- Yellow cards issued when they should have been red (e.g. foul, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures);
- Incorrect identification of players;
- Alleged offences which never happened. Video evidence is becoming more common in discipline hearings;
- Factual errors such as the time and place of the incident;



Law 5

Here are the referee's powers and duties with regards to discipline matters:

- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences;
- Takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds;
- Acts on the advice of the other match officials regarding incidents that the referee has not seen;

Whenever a player or coach is sent off (ejected), the referee is required to do the following:

1. They must report the incident
2. They must send the report to the appropriate authority. Only a player, or substitute, or substituted player may be shown the red or yellow card. Coaches must be verbally informed of their ejection.

Always keep in mind:

"[The referee] has the authority to take disciplinary action from entering the field of play for the pre-match inspection until leaving the field of play after the match ends." (*Laws of the Game*, Law 5)

Robert D'Alesio

Directeur à l'arbitrage

Lac St-Louis Soccer

Procedure

The following is the procedure to be used in any case involving the ejection of a player or team official, or an incident occurring in a game assigned by the Lac St-Louis Soccer Referee Department:

- **When:**

- Every time an ejection has occurred, such as:
 - A **red card** has been shown to a player or a substitute, according to Law 12;
 - A team official has been ejected according to Law 5

- If an incident occurs before, during or following a match. Examples of incidents include:
 - An unusual delay before or during a match;
 - Any type of spectator or external interference;
 - Any type of “technical” malfunction related to the lighting or the pitch;
 - Any type of mass confrontation;
 - A substitute (or substitutes) or coaches leaving the technical area and entering the pitch without the referee’s authorization.

- **What MUST be done:**

- Following an ejection, the required discipline report must be completed in PTS within 48 hours (the report will be reviewed and referees may be asked to clarify statements made);
- If multiple ejections occur within the same match, individual discipline reports must be written for each ejection in PTS-REF;
- A comment must be entered in the “Referee’s observations” when entering results: “Discipline report to follow”;
- If an incident occurs, the comment in the “Referee’s observations” must indicate that either an incident report will follow, or the description of the incident must be included in the Referee’s Observations section. If a separate incident report is written, it must be sent via email to the Regional Referee Coordinator (coordonnateurarbitrage@soccerlsl.qc.ca) within 48 hours.

Guidelines

8 Question Approach

Describing the incident tends to be the most difficult part of the report. Consider the following challenge:



1. **Context: At what minute in the game did this offence occur? What was the score?**

In the 74th, with the score tied 1-1.

2. **Where on the field of play did the offence take place?**

Near the touchline in Team X's defensive half, on the opposite side of the technical areas.

3. **What happened?**

Player X committed a foul on an opponent.

4. **What type of foul was it?**

*It was a challenge for the ball committed with excessive force. The player entered the challenge at high speed with a straight leg. The player's studs made contact with his opponent's knee. The player never made contact with the ball. This constitutes **serious foul play** as per Law 12.*

5. **Where was the ball?**

The opponent was in possession of the ball when the challenge was made.

6. **What position was I in?**

I was about 10 metres away and had a clear, unobstructed view of the offence.

7. **What action was taken?**

The player was sent off for serious foul play. Play was restarted with a direct free kick for Team Y.

8. **Continued misconduct?**

There was no continued misconduct. The ejected player left the field of play immediately and did not return.

General Notes

Reports should be accurate, brief and clear. Opinions should be avoided. Writing should be spelled and punctuated correctly. New referees may ask their club referee director or an experienced colleague to approve the report before submitting it.

Examples

Example 1: Receiving a second caution in the same match

In the 88th minute of play with the score tied 1-1, Player X was ejected for receiving a second caution in the same match. The first caution was for unsporting behaviour in the 78th minute (reckless challenge for the ball) and the second caution was for delaying the restart of play. Player X left the field immediately and did not return.

Example 2: Violent conduct

In the 40th minute of play, with the score 2-1 in favour of Team Y and the ball out play for a corner kick, Player X deliberately and violently kicked an opponent using her right leg. She made contact with the opponent's tibia. The offence occurred inside the penalty area before the corner kick was taken. I was 10 meters away from the incident with a clear view. I sent off Player X for violent conduct as per Law 12. She left the field immediately and did not return. Play was restarted with a corner kick.

Example 3: DOGSO – Handball

In the 65th minute of play, with the score 1-0 in favour of Team X, Player X deliberately handled the ball on her own goal line and prevented the ball from entering the goal. I was approximately 15 meters from play with an unobstructed view. I ejected Player X for Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity as per Law 12. She left the field immediately and did not return. Play was restarted with a penalty kick for Team Y.

Example 4: DOGSO

In the 42nd minute of play, with the score tied 2-2, Player X deliberately held back an opponent by pulling on his shirt. The opponent had a clear path to Team X's goal. The offence occurred just outside of Team X's penalty area (inside the penalty arc). I was approximately 15 meters from the incident with a clear view. I ejected Player X for Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity as per Law 12. The player said, "You're a s*** ref" after I had shown him the red card. He then left the field of play. After the game, he returned to the field and shouted, "You're the worst ref I've ever seen!"

Example 5: Offensive, insulting and/or abusive language or gestures

In the 12th minute of play, with the score 2-1 in favour of Team Y, Player X lost the ball after being challenged by an opponent near the halfway line. The challenge was fair, so I allowed play to continue. Player X then shouted at me "Go **** yourself". At this point I was 10 meters away from Player X. I stopped play and ejected Player X for using offensive, insulting, and/or abusive language or gestures as per Law 12. Player X left the field immediately and did not return. Play was restarted with an indirect free kick for Team Y.

Example 6: Coach not behaving in a responsible manner

In the 40th minute of play, with the score 6-1 in favour of Team Y, I called a penalty kick against team X as one of their players committed a deliberate handball inside their own penalty area. At this point, Coach X began to shout insults at me from his technical area. He said the following "Are you blind?", "How much did the other team pay you to call that?", "You should open the rulebook". Having already warned the coach about his behaviour earlier in the match, I approached the coach and ejected him for not behaving in a responsible manner as per Law 5. Coach X told me he would not leave the technical area. I informed him that if he did not leave the field and its immediate surroundings in the next two minutes, I would stop the game. Coach X refused to leave, so I stopped the game with 40 minutes played.

