



## ASSAULT ON REFEREES

### **If an assault occurs:**

1. **Never strike back**, if such action can possibly be avoided. Defend yourself as passively as possible. When referees are struck, the majority of players and bystanders are automatically sympathetic toward the referee, even if they were previously hostile. If the referees choose to “slug it out,” they stand to lose the support and calming influence of the players and bystanders. The referees’ legal position may also be prejudiced.
2. **Try to remain calm and avoid undue signs of stress**. Maintain a standard of behavior befitting a professional referee. Remember that police officers are assaulted frequently, yet they react in as controlled a manner as the situation permits, drawing on their resources of self-control to get to the top of the threatening situation.
3. **Send the player off**. Advise the captain of your decision, and be prepared to abandon the game if the player is not removed completely from the scene. **CALL THE POLICE AND MAKE SURE IT’S NOTED THAT YOU WERE ASSAULTED AND “PRESS CHARGES.”**
4. **Get the details down on paper**. (when things are under control). Note the player’s number and obtain the name from the team captain or coach if necessary.
5. **Obtain witnesses**. Consult your assistant referees, if any, or any unattached bystanders. Record names and telephone numbers for future reference. Use other players as witnesses only as a last resort. Do not be concerned about holding up the game; common assault is a criminal offense and must be treated seriously. Make notes to be sure that your subsequent report is accurate. After the game, discuss the incident with your witnesses; this is quite legal as no charges have been laid at this state.
6. **Seek medical attention if you are injured**. Go to the nearest hospital emergency room or trauma clinic. The medical personnel will treat any injuries, and document them for the record. Retain any medical records.
7. **Official notification of the incident**. Contact the President of the State Association that has jurisdiction over the game, the State Referee Administrator and the Assignor, as soon as possible, but at least by the next business day, to make them aware of the incident. Follow up within 48 hours with a complete written report. A copy should go to the SRA, the State President, the ISRC, the USSF and to the league or local association to which the accused belongs.
8. **Write a report**. The report of assault or abuse toward any member of the referee crew must be professional, precise, informative and above all, accurate. The report should be accompanied by written reports from the assistant referees (if used) and by copies of any other game misconduct reports sent to the league under whose jurisdiction the match was played. If you were, or are going to be, medically treated for injury, that should also be noted.
9. **Procedure for report transmittal**. The written reports are sent within 48 hours to the parties listed in #7 above. For tournaments or special events, the tournament director/event coordinator must be notified, in writing, on the day of the incident, and the referee’s home state SRA (if out of state) within 10 days.
10. **In the event that the assault is serious enough** for you to consider filing civil action with the local authorities, you do have that right. Please inform the State President of your intent to do so.



## Things Referees Can Do To Help Protect Themselves From Accusations of Inappropriate Conduct

### DO'S

**DO** attend yearly Re-Certifying clinics, taking the appropriate written/fitness test where required

**DO** check the goal, nets and fields for safety and ensure that the goals are properly anchored according to the goal manufacturer's instructions

**DO** document unsafe field and goal conditions to your assignor

**DO** stop all games at the first warning/sign of approaching severe weather

**DO** summon Coach's assistance for an injured or ill player

**DO** document unusual situations and report your concerns to your assignor

### DON'T'S

**DO NOT** be alone with players, especially in non-public settings

**DO NOT** touch a player or coach

**DO NOT** start a soccer event if the fields, goals and nets are unsafe and/or if the goals are not anchored or improperly anchored

**DO NOT** show favoritism

**DO NOT** demean, negatively label or ridicule a player or coach

**DO NOT** show particular or intense interest in any player or coach

**DO NOT** use profanity or smoke in the presence of players and coaches

**DO NOT** disclose intimate or personal feelings to a player or coach

**DO NOT** respond in kind to seductive behavior

**DO NOT** make excessive physical contact with a player or coach

**DO NOT** flirt, banter or tease players and coaches

**DO NOT** make repeated comments about the attractiveness of a player or coach

**Please note that with today's technology there is always someone there with a video phone or some other recording device that will capture your actions should they be inappropriate.**