



TO: VHSL Soccer Commissioners
FROM: Joyce Sisson, Assistant Director
Tom Zimorski, Deputy Director
SUBJ: Use of Cards – We need your help!
DATE: April 25, 2013

Based on information reported to the League office, officials are being far too lenient in enforcing rules related to misconduct. Schools are self-reporting situations and in some cases removing players from teams for behaviors that were not penalized or were inappropriately penalized (verbal warning instead of yellow card; or yellow card instead of red card) by game officials. VHSL programs are education based, and as such some of the most important lessons to be learned through participation in these programs have to do with learning what it means to be a good sport and a good citizen. Players need to learn what is appropriate and what is not. They need to learn how to win with class and lose with dignity. They learn nothing of value if officials don't enforce the rules of the game.

Please convey the following information to your officials with the expectation that these particular types of misconduct are to be addressed immediately, without verbal warning. There are, of course, other forms of misconduct, but the focus is on those listed below.

Automatic Yellow Card Situations – First Offense

Incidental use of profanity or vulgar language
Dissent/Arguing an official's call
After scoring a goal, the player or players leave the field to celebrate with fans

Automatic Red Card Situations – First Offense

After scoring a goal, the player continues to run toward or circles around the GK
Intentional contact between the goal scorer and the goalkeeper
After preventing a goal, the GK leaves the penalty area to approach an opposing player
Taunting by the GK (example: GK wags his/her index finger at the shooter as if scolding a dog)
Taunting by ANY player or coach
Use of profane language or gestures when directed toward another player, coach or game officials

Please do not tolerate these behaviors. If you take care of these behaviors the first time they happen, they are less likely to happen again. If it comes to the attention of the League office that there are officials or officials associations who are not enforcing these rules, post season assignments could be compromised.