



Supplemental Reports

The supplemental match report is an important part of the referee crew's job. Without a complete description of send-offs and dismissals, the relevant governing committee cannot make informed decisions when it comes to suspensions and fines. To aid officials in the construction of the report, US Soccer has a summary of the important elements in their Advice to Referees. Section 5.13, which is included below, outlines items to address.

In the description of the event, it is vital to provide details so that the reader has a clear understanding of what transpired. As part of this then, it should describe the distances traveled, how long the action took place, what was said, visual actions of a player or bench personnel, and preventative actions taken by the officials.

Additionally, information is needed about the person who suffered the action leading to the opponent's misconduct. This includes: Who was the player? Where on their body was the impact? Did they suffer an injury? Did they receive treatment? Were they able to continue playing or did they leave the game then or later in the match due to the injury suffered?

For example:

In the 78th minute, John Smith, #99 of the Falcon's was sent-off for serious foul play. While attempting to challenge for the ball in front of his team's bench, he struck the Spirit's #8, Dave Davies with his cleats. Mr. Smith lunged from a distance of about three yards with a straight leg, catching Mr. Davies in the left thigh with his studs. A foul was immediately whistled and the referee and fourth official intervened to prevent mass confrontation by the players. A red card was shown and Mr. Smith left the field without incident. Mr. Davies received treatment from the trainer and continued playing. Approximately eight minutes later, Mr. Davies was substituted from the game due to this injury.

With a description containing such details, the Utah disciplinary committee can contact the Spirit's team to inquire as to Mr. Davies' health and then come to an informed decision upon the length of suspension for Mr. Smith.

The supplemental report should be reviewed by all members of the referee team. By signing and submitting the reports, the referees state that the information is correct. Accuracy in this report is imperative. Please contact a member of the state referee committee for assistance or to answer questions.

US Soccer Advice to Referees - 5.13 Match Reports and Misconduct

Although all aspects of the referee's match report must meet high standards of clarity, accuracy, brevity, and pertinence, those sections involving misconduct require special attention, and reporting on acts of misconduct leading to a send-off merit the highest concern. In order for disciplinary committees to evaluate serious misconduct, match reports must start with:

- The name of (and additional identifying information for) the player who was sent off.
- The time of the send-off, and
- The specific reason in the Laws of the Game for the send-off (Law 12). In addition, however, the referee must supply sufficient detail regarding the circumstances of the misconduct to aid in evaluating its level of seriousness. Among the factors that should be addressed, where relevant, are:
 - Whether the action occurred during a challenge for the ball.
 - Whether the misconduct occurred at a stoppage of play or during play.
 - If anyone was injured as a consequence of the misconduct.
 - Whether there was any prior incident that may have led to the player's actions.
- The demeanor of the player during the send-off (including any difficulties in implementing the player's removal from the field).
- The location of the action in relation to the goal line and penalty area being attacked at the time.
- The subsequent intrusion of any other players (teammates or opponents) during the time the referee is managing the send-off.
- The specific words or gestures which were determined to be insulting, offensive, or abusive.
- The identity of the opponent or official toward whom the misconduct was directed.
- A summary of the prior misconduct (or a reference to the section of the report which detailed the prior caution) preceding the second caution for which the player was sent off.
- The identity of the assistant referee, fourth official, or reserve assistant referee who provided independently observed facts to the referee regarding the misconduct.

- All other details of the action which materially shaped the decision to send the player off.

Match reports provided independently by assistant referees or fourth officials should follow these guidelines as well.

When a player commits more than one form of misconduct at the same time (e.g., dissent and abusive language, denial of an obvious goal scoring opportunity and serious foul play, delaying the restart of play and failure to respect the required distance), the referee can use only one as the official reason for the caution or send off.

The reason given should reflect whichever act of misconduct is considered the most serious. However, all misconduct committed by a player must be noted in the referee's report, including any behavior in addition to the official reason for the caution or send off.