



# ***CASL Discipline and Appeals***

How the Process Works For The  
Benefit of Our Members

Sept 12, 2011

## ***CASL Scope and Mission***

CASL is a North Carolina non-profit corporation functioning as a youth soccer club primarily in Wake County for children Under 5 through Under 19 at multiple levels of competition. Typically CASL has about 600 teams per season. On occasion, with these many players, coaches, team managers, parents and spectators, situations can arise which CASL must address.

## ***CASL As A Member of NCYSA and USYS***

CASL is a member of and operates under the jurisdiction of the NC Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA) which likewise is a member of United States Youth Soccer (USYS). CASL's Discipline and Appeals process (D&A) operates within the rules established by NCYSA and USYS.

## ***CASL Code Of Conduct and Expectations***

CASL sets high conduct standards for its players, coaches, team managers and parents/spectators. Player expectations center around fair play and sportsmanship while still playing hard. Coaches are expected to encourage, lead by example, respect all players and game officials, communication in a positive manner, comply with all CASL Rules of Play and ensure parents follow these same expectations. For a complete copy of the Code of Conduct, please refer to the CASL Rule Book on [www.caslinc.com](http://www.caslinc.com). These codes of conduct “paint a picture” of obeying the letter of the CASL rules, Laws of the Game, but also the “Spirit of the Game”. As a simple example, the coach who uses positive reinforcement instead of using caustic language to his/her players, is on the right path to meeting the “Spirit of the Game”. The parent who acknowledges a good play by an opponent instead of screaming how unfair the opponent is, can be said to be meeting the “Spirit of the Game”.

On occasion, a CASL participant does not meet CASL expectations. In situations that are primarily administrative or managerial in nature,

(continued)

## ***CASL Code Of Conduct and Expectations***

*(continued)*

or in which CASL management, in its discretion, determines the factual background to be relatively clear-cut and straightforward, CASL management will take prompt remedial actions appropriate for the nature of the situation. A right of appeal into the more formal Discipline and Appeals process will be provided and the individuals involved will be apprised of the availability of that process.

In situations that are more complex, involving disputed facts or more significant potential punishments, or otherwise directly fall within the scope of the Discipline and Appeals process, or in which the D&A process is specifically and properly invoked by the participant in CASL programs, CASL will utilize and follow formal D&A processes that are patterned after and comply in substance with applicable NCYSA/USYS requirements.

## ***CASL Discipline and Appeals Jurisdiction***

The CASL Discipline and Appeals process has jurisdiction over CASL players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers and spectators in all matters within the scope of the NCYSA/USYS D&A process. Such matters can include:

- 1) Allegations of violation of CASL rules or directives to teams and spectators,
- 2) Allegations of violation of CASL's Code of Conduct,
- 3) Allegations of misapplication of the Laws of the Game,
- 4) Any allegation of referee assault involving a CASL team,
- 5) Addressing any matter assigned by the CASL Board of Directors, or the CEO.

## ***Laws of the Game and CASL Rules***

CASL has published rules for U5/6, U7/8, U9/10, and U11/12 which are age group specific. CASL has also published the CASL Rule Book which does not address Laws of the Game which is the purview of USYS and FIFA. We do, however, cover in the CASL Rule Book Codes of Conduct, and many operational rules for the teams. All these documents can be downloaded from the CASL website ([www.caslinc.com](http://www.caslinc.com)). These rules must be followed. Failure to do so, may result in a D&A review and action. Furthermore, USYS Laws of the Game may call for a one game suspension for a Red Card but CASL D&A may find circumstances which warrant further sanctions. Some other examples might be fighting, parental confrontations, and use of offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures.

## ***Discipline and Appeals Procedure***

When a CASL player, coach, assistant coach, team manager or parent feels an incident within the CASL Discipline and Appeals jurisdiction has occurred, they should notify CASL as described below. First, notify your team coach who will in turn notify your division's Age Group Coordinator. This notification should be done promptly in writing or via email. A detailed description of the incident along with any witness' names, the date, time and location must be written down and submitted to CASL. This written complaint is to be addressed to:

CASL Discipline and Appeals Complaint

3300 Woman's Club Drive, Suite 1

Raleigh, NC 27612

(continued)

## ***D&A Procedure*** (continued)

CASL will assess the situation and address it in one of three ways. If the complaint can be resolved through a CASL representative explanation which is satisfactory to the complainant, then they will receive a letter from CASL with that explanation and notified of a right to appeal. Secondly, if the complaint is more involved such as multiple parties, a CASL representative will mediate the complaint. If a satisfactory conclusion can be mediated between involved parties, a letter will be mailed to them with a statement of findings and actions to be executed. This letter will also outline appeal procedures. Lastly, if the complaint warrants a formal Discipline and Appeals hearing, CASL will assign this complaint to the committee for hearing. Notice of the hearing will be mailed and/or emailed in accordance with proper procedures. The D&A committee will administer the hearing according the NCYSA D&A hearing procedures, render its findings and sanctions in a letter and email to the involved parties. These notifications will include information on rights to appeal. These letters will typically be sent within 4 business days after the hearing. Appeals from the CASL D&A process will be to NCYSA.



## ***Conclusion***

The D&A procedure is designed to provide objective and fair review and resolution of complaints from our soccer members or of CASL rule violations. Our goal is not to punish but to cause change, when possible, to meet the established standards.

Thanks for becoming informed about CASL's Standard of Conduct and when necessary, the Discipline and Appeals process.