



# MANITOBA SOCCER ASSOCIATION POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES



## SECURITY OF MATCH OFFICIALS POLICY

### STATEMENT

The Manitoba Soccer Association (MSA) is committed to the security and safety of Match Officials participating in MSA sanctioned games, leagues or competitions at all venues.

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The MSA Security of Match Officials Policy requires that all member Leagues and Associations inform their affiliated clubs that any acts or threats of violence, intimidation or abuse, whether it be verbal or physical (including gestures) in nature, directed at Match Officials in any MSA sanctioned event or competition will not be tolerated. Each member Club under the auspices of the MSA shall be responsible for the safety and security of the Match Officials.

For Senior matches, Club Officials shall act as the Liaison between the Match Officials, players and spectators. Club Officials, whether listed on the game sheet or on the MSA Membership Registration Form shall be responsible for the conduct of their players, team officials and spectators before, during and after the match.

For WYSA matches, a Referee Liaison (RL) will be selected by each team. The RL's name will be stated on the game sheet and be identifiable by wearing a RL arm band as per the *WYSA Directive to Referees and Coaches regarding Referee Liaisons* (2009). The Referee Liaison will assist the referee when asked to do so and will be responsible for controlling the behavior of their own spectators. They will not be responsible for the conduct of the opposition's spectators but may submit a report to WYSA if they witness any serious improper conduct by the opposition's spectators. The Match Official will abandon the match and submit a report to WYSA, in the event that one (1) team or neither team provides a Referee Liaison within five (5) minutes after the scheduled kick off time.

Match Officials have the authority to expel any spectator, player, or Club Official that in their opinion is causing a disturbance. Match Officials may request aid from Club Officials or WYSA RLs at any time to maintain spectator discipline or to ensure their safety. Club Officials or WYSA RLs must comply with the Match Officials' request. Failure to aid the Match Officials or to stop any abuse, threats or violence will result in the abandonment of the game.



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In the event that a Club Official or WYSA RL fails to fulfill their responsibility to ensure a safe environment or the security of Match Officials, a written report detailing the incident(s) must be submitted to the member League/Association within 48 hours of the match. The League/Association must take appropriate disciplinary action against the Club or Club Official upon receiving the report and investigating the incident. The League/Association may send the report to the MSA Disciplinary Committee for additional considerations and possible disciplinary sanctions against any individuals or the Club.

In situations where a Match Official has been physically assaulted, verbally intimidated, abused or threatened with physical assault, the Match Official must submit a report directly to the MSA within 48 hours. The MSA Disciplinary Committee will deal with all incidents of reported assaults and will take disciplinary action against individuals involved in the incident as well as any Club Official or the Club should it deem necessary.