

Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association



NLSA Competition Discipline Regulations

March 2026

INTRODUCTION

The guidelines below represent the minimum sanctions that a Discipline Committee may apply. For the avoidance of doubt, sanctions may be either one of, or a combination of, a fine and/or suspension. In the case of sanctions for Serious Infringements outlined below, players are required to serve the minimum suspension for the offense. Sanctions for any offense may be increased based upon the weight of the evidence presented and/or on the severity of the misconduct.

NLSA JURISDICTION

Direct Jurisdiction and Related Responsibilities

The NLSA will have direct jurisdiction in the following matters:

- a) Complaints or enquiries referred to it by Canada Soccer.
- b) Misconduct within the Competition Environment from:
 - i) Any person participating in the NLSA's Provincial Teams;
 - ii) An NLSA Member or any of their officers and officials;
 - iii) Leagues or competitions sanctioned and/or organized by the NLSA;
 - iv) Any NLSA Provincial Competition, Tournament, or Festival;
 - v) Any Atlantic, National, or International match or event where participation was given prior approval by the NLSA.

All alleged offences and violations of the Laws of the Game, and the NLSA Rules and Regulations arising from this section shall be addressed in accordance with the NLSA Competition Discipline Regulations.

- c) Every Member (as defined in the NLSA By-Laws) is responsible for the actions of its players, team staff, officials, and spectators, all of whom may only take part in or attend games on condition that they observe the NLSA's Rules and Regulations and the NLSA Code of Conduct and Ethics.
- d) Any member of a team, staff, or player who is suspended will serve the suspension in the league where the suspension was issued.
- e) Any member of a team with a dual role of team staff and player who is suspended will be suspended from all activities in the league in question.

APPLICATION OF SANCTION TABLES

If it is determined by the NLSA or an Independent Third Party (ITP) that an alleged breach occurred during a competition within the **NLSA Competition Environment**, the applicable sanctioning tables shall be applied.

The **Competition Environment** includes any location or setting in which a sanctioned NLSA competition occurs and covers the period from when players, volunteers, staff, or officials enter the facility or venue until they leave. Specifically, it includes all areas under the control of the host organization for the duration of the competition, including but not limited to the field of play, technical areas, team benches, dressing rooms, spectator areas, parking areas, and surrounding facility grounds.

Contents of these tables are the responsibility of the NLSA and may be amended at any time.

Sanctions for NLSA Competition Environment

1. FIFA Laws of the Game Violations

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum Suspension
1.1	Offensive Behaviour & Fair Play – Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play	Administrative	\$250.00	Suspended From all soccer related activities for thirty (30) days

1.2	Discrimination / Harassment (Player or Official)	Field/ Administrative	\$2 500.00 (Player), \$10 000.00 (Official)	Player ten (10) matches (Official) suspended from all soccer related activities for forty-five (45) deduction, and/or relegation, and/or team Disqualification from Competition and match forfeiture
1.3	Discrimination/Harassment 1 or more persons/Officials from same Club or Member	Field Administrative	\$20,000 (team/member)	Point deduction, and/or relegation, and/or team disqualification from competition
1.4	Discrimination/ Harassment (Team Supporters)	Field/ Administrative	\$20 000.00 (Team/Member)	Stadium ban of at least two (2) years.
1.5	Discrimination / Harassment (Spectators)	Field/ Administrative	(\$20 000.00) Team / Member	Stadium ban of at least two (2) years.
1.6	Threats (intimidation of a Match official)	Field/ Administrative	\$1 000.00	(Player) six (6) match Suspension (Official) suspended from all soccer related activities for sixty (60) days; where appropriate removal from a position of authority.

1.7	Coercion (violence or threats to pressure a Match Official)	Field/ Administrative	\$1 000.00	(Player) six (6) match suspension (Official) suspended from all soccer related activities for sixty (60) days; where appropriate removal from a position of authority.
1.8	Forgery and Falsification (<u>Player</u>)	Field/ Administrative	\$250.00	Six (6) Matches
1.9	Forgery and Falsification (Official, match agent or intermediary)	Field/ Administrative	\$500.00	A twelve (12) month ban on taking part in any soccer related activity
1.10	Forgery and Falsification (Coach/Director/Staff)	Field/ Administrative	\$2 500.00	Expulsion from a competition
1.11	Forgery and Falsification (Member)	Field/ Administrative	\$1 000.00	expulsion from a competition and/or a transfer ban
1.12	Corruption	Field/ Administrative	\$10 000.00	complete ban on taking part in any soccer-related activity and on entering any stadium
1.13	Unlawfully Influencing Match Results (Match Fixing)	Field/ Administrative	\$10 000.00	complete ban on taking part in any soccer-related activity match suspension

1.14	Doping	Field/ Administrative	As defined in accordance with the CCES Anti Doping Regulations	as defined in accordance with the CCES Anti Doping Regulations
1.15	Failure to Respect Decisions (Club / Region)	Field/ Administrative	\$500.00	point deduction and/or relegation to a lower division and/or expulsion from Canada Soccer NLSA Competitions
1.16	Failure to Respect Decisions (Player / Official)	Field/ Administrative	\$250.00	12-month ban on taking part in any soccer- related activity

2. Minor Infringements – Laws of the Game

For minor infringements, the Competition Regulations may identify a fine structure and/or a yellow card accumulation suspension to be imposed. A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences. With the exception of a 6th (or more) yellow card, yellow card suspensions will not carry over to the Final Weekend.

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum Suspension
2.1	Unsporting behavior	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card

2.2	Dissent by word or action	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
2.3	Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card

2.4	Delaying the restart of play	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
2.5	Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
2.6	Entering or re entering the field of play without the referee's Permission	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
2.7	Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's Permission	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
2.8	First Caution	Field	NA	No Action
2.9	Second Caution	Field	NA	No Action

2.10	Third Caution	Field	NA	No Action

2.11	Fourth Caution	Field	NA	1 game
2.12	Fifth Caution	Field	NA	1 game
2.13	Sixth Caution	Field	NA	Referred to the Complaint Resolution Officer and suspended until a decision is rendered
2.14	Seventh Caution	Field	NA	Referred to the Complaint Resolution Officer and suspended until a decision is rendered
2.15	Eighth Caution	Field	NA	Referred to the Complaint Resolution Officer and suspended until a decision is rendered
2.16	Subsequent Cautions	Field	NA	Referred to the Complaint Resolution Officer and suspended until a decision is rendered

3. Serious Infringements - FIFA Laws of the Game:

Misconduct against Opponents or persons other than Match Officials.

Where a player or member of the team technical staff is dismissed by a Match Official the following minimum suspensions are to be applied. The Complaint Resolution Officer hearing the case may, based on the weight of the evidence presented, impose further sanctions and apply additional sanctions. This does not replace or negate the requirement for a participant to fulfil the minimum suspension outlined below. A player or team staff shall be dismissed if they commit any of the following offences:

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum Suspension
3.1	Serious foul play (including the use of excessive or brute force)	Field	As per competition regulations	a two (2) match suspension
3.2	Violent conduct (including elbowing, punching, kicking, etc.)	Field	As per competition regulations	a three (3) match suspension
3.3	Biting or Spitting at someone an opponent or any other person	Field	team/club/PT SO fine of \$250 As per competition regulations	a seven (7) match suspension

3.4	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal- scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (except a goalkeeper within their own penalty area)	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
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3.5	Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	Field/ Administrative	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
3.6	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	Field	As per competition regulations	a two (2) match suspension

3.7	<p>Receiving a second caution (Yellow Card) in the same match</p> <p>A player who receives a 6th yellow card, and then receives a 2nd yellow card in the same game, resulting in a red card will be suspended for a minimum of 2 games and will be referred to the Complaint Resolution Officer for further review.</p>	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension

4. Misconduct Against Match Officials

Notwithstanding the sanctions outlined in Section 3 above, where the misconduct is directed at a Match Official in the circumstances described below the minimum sanctions imposed shall be, but not limited to, the following:

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum
4.1	Unsporting conduct towards a Match Official (using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures to a Match	Field	As per competition regulations	a six (6) match suspension or an appropriate amount of time

	Official			

4.2	Assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking, hitting, biting, spitting etc.) a Match Official	Field	As per competition regulations	a fifteen (15) match suspension or an appropriate amount of time
4.3	Intimidating or threatening a Match official Spitting at a Match Official	Field	As per competition regulations	a twelve (12) month suspension.

5. Disorderliness at Matches and Competitions

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on Members where disorderliness takes place.

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum
5.1	Inciting hatred and violence during a match (player or Official)	Field/ Administrative	\$2,500	Player Twelve (12) match suspension (official) suspended from all soccer related activities for six (6) months where appropriate for removal from a position of authority.

5.2	Inciting hatred and violence (player or official) using mass and/or social media or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium	Field/ Administrative	\$10,000	(Player) twelve (12) match suspension (official) Suspended from all soccer related activities for six (6) months; where appropriate removal from a position of authority.
5.3	Provoking the general public during a match (Player or official)	Field / Administrative	\$1000.00	(Player) a two (2) matches suspension (Official) suspended from all soccer related activities for forty-five (45) days; where appropriate removal from a position of authority. Activities for (45) forty-five days; where appropriate removal from a position of authority
5.4	Improper conduct among spectators (letting off Incendiary Device)	Field/ Administration	\$250	most serious offences a number of games, or certain sections of the ground, not being open to the public.
5.5	Improper conduct among spectators (displaying insulting or political slogans in any form)	Field/ Administration	\$250	most serious offences a number of games, or certain sections of the ground, not being open to the public.

5.6	Improper conduct among spectators (entering or invading the field of play)	Field/ Administration	\$250	most serious offences a number of games, or certain sections of the ground, not being open to the public.
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5.7	Improper conduct among spectators,((violence towards persons uttering insulting words or sounds)	Field/ Administration	\$250	most serious offences a number of games, or certain sections of the ground, not being open to the public.
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5.8	Improper conduct among spectators (throwing missiles)	Field/ Administration	\$250	most serious offences a number of games, or certain sections of the ground, not being open to the public.
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6. Team Misconduct

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on the Members where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular:

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum Suspension
6.1	Where a referee sanctions at least five (5) members of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion)	Field	team/club/ member fine of \$250	N/A

6.2	Where several players or Officials of the same team threaten or harass a Match Official(s) or other person(s)	Field	team/club/ member fine of \$1000	Suspension may be imposed
6.3	Where two (2) or more players surround a Match Official to protest a decision	Field	team/club/ member fine of \$250	N/A
6.4	Player ineligibility – An ineligible player takes part in a sanctioned competition match(s)	Field	\$1,000	Team forfeits the match(s)
6.5	Un-played Match in Provincial League or Competition without just cause	Field/ Administrative	\$2,500 per game against the Association or Club/team responsible	Match shall be forfeited
6.6	Abandoned Match (Member/Team/Club behavior)	Field/ Administrative	\$2.500 against the Association or Club/Team responsible	Match shall either be forfeited or replayed as per competition regulations
6.7	Brawl	Field	As per competition regulations	a six (6) match suspension to be imposed on those found guilty of inciting or provoking the offence

7. Team Official Misconduct

	Name/Description of Misconduct	Field/ Administrative	Fine	Minimum Suspension
7.1	Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction	Field	As per competition regulations	As per the offence committed
7.2	Entering the field of play in a respectful/non confrontational manner	Field	As per competition regulations	Warning. Repeated/ Blatant offences: yellow or red card
7.3	Failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official	Field	As per competition regulations	Warning. Repeated/Blatant offences: yellow or red card
7.4	Minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision		As per competition regulations	Warning. Repeated/Blatant offences: yellow or red card
7.5	Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence	Field	As per competition regulations	Warning. Repeated/Blatant offences: yellow or red card

7.6	Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
7.7	delaying the restart of play by their team	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
7.8	delaying the restart of play by their team	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
7.9	deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card

7.10	dissent by word or action including: throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects; gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. sarcastic clapping	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card

7.11	excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card

7.12	gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
7.13	persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
7.14	showing a lack of respect for the game	Field	As per competition regulations	Yellow Card
7.15	delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing player movement	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
7.16	deliberately leaving the technical area to: show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official; act in a provocative or inflammatory manner	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
7.17	enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
7.18	deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension

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7.19	entering the field of play to: confront a match official (including at half-time and full time); interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
7.20	entering the Referee Changing Room at any time	Field	As per competition regulations	a three (3) match suspension
7.21	physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)	Field	As per competition regulations	a seven (7) match suspension; 15 match suspension if against a match official

7.22	receiving a second caution in the same match	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension

7.23	using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	Field	As per competition regulations	a two (2) match suspension
7.24	using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment	Field	As per competition regulations	a one (1) match suspension
7.25	violent conduct	Field	As per competition regulations	a three (3) match suspension
7.26	First Caution	Field	NA	No Action
7.27	Second Caution	Field	NA	1 game
7.28	Third Caution	Field	NA	2 games
7.29	Fourth Caution	Field	NA	3 games
7.30	Fifth Caution	Field	NA	4 games

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7.31	Sixth Caution	Field	NA	5 games
7.32	Seventh Caution	Field	NA	6 games
7.33	Eighth Caution	Field	NA	7 games
7.34	Subsequent Cautions	Field	NA	8 games