



**On February 14, 2018, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, Public Law No. 115-126 (02/14/2018) was signed into law by President Donald Trump.**

**This law requires the prompt reporting of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the Agency designated by the Attorney General.**

**Abuse of an Official falls under this Act as follows:**

### **Clarification of Abuse of an Official**

#### **Section 1**

- (a) When any person shall assault or abuse an official, jurisdiction shall vest immediately in the Board of Directors of this Association. An official, for the sole purpose of this specific ASA regulation, shall be defined as the referee, official linesman, referee assignor(s), referee administrator, any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee, any club assistant referee, player, coach, team administrator, tournament director(s), tournament staff, or any officer or member of the Board of Directors of this Association, member leagues and clubs. Misconduct towards officials may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match.
- (b) "Assault of an official" shall be defined as an intentional act of physical violence upon an official and shall include, but not be limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at, or on, grabbing or bodily running into an official, kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury, damaging an official's uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc.
- (c) "Verbal Abuse of an official" shall be defined as a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact, which implies or threatens physical harm to an official or the official's property or equipment.
- (d) "Abuse of an official" shall be defined as, but not limited to, using foul or abusive language toward the official, threatening the official with remarks that carry implied or direct threat of physical harm, and spewing a beverage on an official or his property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

#### **Section 2**

All coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and administrators are mandatory reporters under the **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.**

Should a mandatory reporter witness abuse of a minor aged official, this must be reported to the police within 12 hours in addition to the following actions:

A report of abuse of an official must be filed within 12 hours of the incident to ASA by the person witnessing the abuse OR by the person who is abused. When the abused official is a referee, a 21-day suspension from all ASA activities will become effective immediately the red card is shown to the person committing the abuse.

If a red card is not shown or if the situation prevents the showing of a red card, and the abused official is under the age of 18, whether referee, player or any other official as defined in Section 1 (a), a 21-day

suspension from all ASA activities will become effective immediately ASA determines that the action falls within the guidelines of abuse.

In the case of an under-age official, whether referee, player or any other official as defined in Section 1 (a), in addition to the 21-day suspension, a report will be filed with SafeSport and a report will be made immediately to the appropriate authorities.

### **Section 3**

If it is determined that the reported abuse does not fall within the guidelines of the SafeSport Act as referenced above, the normal procedures as outlined in Policy 531-9 of the USSF Referee Abuse/Assault Manual as well as the ASA Hearing Manual and Procedures, of which this policy will become part, shall be followed.