



## **ASA AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION POLICY FOR HATE SPEECH**

**This policy is effective September 6, 2023, and supersedes relevant sections of the Hearing Manual, all Codes of Conduct, Open, Academy and Advanced Leagues rules. A separate policy will be enacted for Presidents' and State Cups. This policy only applies to speech that is considered hate speech such as derogatory references to gender, homophobic, ethnic and/or racial slurs, or epithets. Any use of words of this type, even as slang or what player(s) refer to themselves as, is unacceptable.**

**Any player who receives a red card for hate speech, either direct or indirect used in ASA Open or State Leagues will receive an automatic suspension of 4 games. This suspension, if not completed in league play, will carry over to Cup play or the next season as necessary.**

**Any coach, assistant coach, trainer, manager, or club staff member who receives a red card for hate speech, either direct or indirect, will receive an automatic suspension of 4 + 1 games. This suspension, if not completed in league play, will carry over to Cup play or the next season as necessary. This suspension must be served with the team/players involved in said incident.**

**Parents/Spectators engaging in hate speech, either direct or indirect, will also receive a minimum of 4 games suspension as outlined above. If parents/spectators cannot be identified, sidelines may be barred from attendance for said 4 games.**

**In cases where multiple players and/or coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, managers, or club staff members and/or parents/spectators are involved, a hearing will be convened, and the team may face disciplinary action up to and including suspension from participation at all ASA sanctioned events for a length of time specified by the Committee.**

**If an official hears hate speech but cannot identify the speaker, whether player/coach/assistant coach/trainer, manager or member of the club staff, notification of the incident will be sent to the team and a member of the ASA D&R Committee will ensure attendance at the next game involving that team. There may also be a discussion with the entire team concerning the incident. Hearings may be held and penalties may be assessed.**