



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

**Player Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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. The policies for Presidents and State Cups as well as for the ODP and Camps programs, follow this policy. Cups play includes the State, Regional, and National levels of competition

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. The ASA and US Soccer Referee Abuse Policy will supersede this Hate Speech policy if an incident falls within Referee Abuse Policy and is towards an official/referee (updated 3-30-25).

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.

**Player Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_