

A revised red card policy is being proposed for the league to address and fix shortcomings of the current policy. The reasons are listed below.

- Poor Review Policy: Without instant replay, "Board Review" is essentially he said/she said between the ref & player (s) involved. This, understandably, goes in favor of the referees a majority of the time since they are paid employees of the league and their opinions are trusted for the most part. Because of this, there is a need for smaller suspensions for susceptible cards that could stem from referee error (i.e. swearing). This reduces the severity of a ref making an error or poor judgement call and causing a player to have to miss 3+ games because of it, since the current board review process gives little to no opportunity for them to have it overturned.

- In an "adult" league there is little to no reason swearing should carry a stronger suspension than a youth league has (i.e.: BWNYSL's Red Card Policy). Having a verbal offense carry the same suspension length as kicking, punching or spitting on an opponent makes 0 sense; it is essentially encouraging players to be violent since it carries the same length suspension as simply saying a word. Additionally, a differentiation between swearing and making a threat needs to be made. Simply saying a word towards a ref should not be held in the same classification as threatening to cause bodily harm to a ref or AR or another player. The old saying "Sticks & Stones..." comes to mind here in the sense that a person saying a word to someone else does not harm them and they should be able to handle hearing a "word" in an adult league, whereas threatening or causing harm should not be tolerated & should be dealt with more severely. This is not to say that swearing at a referee is okay, it is just lying out that some phrases should carry different levels of punishment.

Card Policy – Voted In on 2/6/17:

Yellow Cards – (Regular Season and Cup Play are Combined)

1. 4 yellows = 1 game suspension, \$0 fine
2. Subsequent 2 yellows = 3 game suspension, \$25 fine
3. All yellows after this are subject to board review

Accumulation will terminate once league playoffs initiate. All suspensions issued before then will still be served.

Red Cards –

All fines and game suspensions (dual yellows are exempt) in this category are minimums and can be increased by the committee/board if needed based on severity and/or player history.

1. Second Yellow in a game – Both yellows convert to a red and don't count towards the accumulation above.
 - a. 1st Offense – 1 game, \$0 fine
 - b. 2nd – 2 games, \$50 fine
 - c. 3rd – Board Review
2. DOGSO – (Ex: handball on goal line, foul as last man back, etc.)
 - a. 1st Offense – 1 game, \$15 fine
 - b. 2nd – 2 games, \$40 fine
 - c. 3rd – Board Review

3. Vulgarity – Swear words or other obscene comments that are deemed as inappropriate
 - a. 1st Offense – 1 game, \$25 fine
 - b. 2nd – 3 games, \$50 fine
 - c. 3rd – Board Review

4. Violent Conduct/Serious Foul Play – (Spitting at opponent/ref, Fighting, Studs Up Tackles, etc)
 - a. 1st Offense – 3 games, \$50 fine
 - b. 2nd – 6 games, \$100 fine
 - c. 3rd – Board Review

5. Threatening a Ref or Player's Safety – (This is a higher severity than vulgarity alone. Intent to attack, kill, injure. Threat to their well-being, more than just words, there is likely intent behind these statements.)
 - a. 1st Offense – 5 games and also Board Review
 - b. 2nd Offense – 1 Year and Board Review before reinstatement

6. Physically Attacking a Referee –
 - a. 1st Offense – Lifetime Ban pending a Board Review

*Any players playing in both Over 35 and BDSL Sunday must serve the same suspension length for both leagues at the same time regardless of what division he received the card.

Example: a Straight Red for a player playing in both leagues would result in 3 game ban for both leagues regardless. The player would miss next 3 over 35 games and next 3 BDSL Sunday/Tehel Cup games*

All red card suspensions will be served during the next scheduled game, regardless of competition (league/cup). Example: DOGSO red received in a Thursday cup game would be served that Sunday