United States Soccer Federation
Rules of Administration
Rule 3042
MISCONDUCT TOWARDS GAME OFFICIALS

Who are the Game Officials

- **"Referee"** includes the following:
  1) All currently registered USSF referees, linesmen, fourth officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
  2) Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee
  3) Any club linesman.

When can it occur?

- Misconduct towards referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match.
- Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee

What is Referee abuse?

- Referee abuse is a verbal statement of physical act which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
- Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
  1) Use of foul or abusive language toward a referee
  2) Spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property
  3) verbally threatening a referee

- Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as
  1) "I'll get you after the game"
  2) "You won't get out of here in one piece"

  shall be deemed as referee abuse.

What is Referee assault?

- Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
- Assault includes, but it not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
  1. hitting, kicking, punching, choking,
  2. spitting at, or on,
  3. grabbing or bodily running into a referee,
  4. the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury,
  5. damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.