

GEORGIA STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION
RECOMMENDED Best Practices for Youth Field Misconduct
March 2014

GSSA Highly Recommends all Youth Clubs/Leagues use of Field Marshals

- The Field Marshal shall be highly visible at all times and should be easily identified by wearing a Neon or Reflective vest.
- The Field Marshal should not manage more than 4 fields at one time.
- The Field Marshal shall be an adult.
- The Field Marshal appointed and trained by the Club/League.
- The Field Marshal shall stay calm, courteous and professional at all times.
- The Field Marshal shall NEVER raise their voice in a conflict.
- The Field Marshal shall NEVER use profanity.
- The Field Marshal shall NEVER touch or use physical actions toward anyone at the field.
- The Field Marshal should have the authority to remove someone from the field and/or park.

Per the GSSA Referee Handbook – “If spectators are abusive or interfere with the conduct of the game, deal with them through the coach. Go to the coach, explain the behavior that is interfering with the game, and ask him or her to try to stop the actions that are bringing the game to disrepute.” **“Do not deal with spectators directly** except in carrying out your duties such as clearing the field for play, keeping the touchline unobstructed, and keeping spectators from behind the goal.”

If a spectator situation occurs, the referee should address the coach that he or she assumes the spectator is associated with. The coach should address the spectator(s) directly or request assistance from the Field Marshal.

If neither coach knows the spectator(s), the referee should seek assistance from the Home Coach in locating the Field Marshal for assistance.

Once the referee and/or the coach have initiated the Field Marshal, 2 scenarios can occur:

- The referee discusses situation with Field Marshal and requests the spectator(s) to calm down.

The Field Marshal should approach the spectator(s) in calm manner and state to them that the referee has requested for them to stop the disruptive actions. The Field Marshal should not engage in any conversation with the spectator(s) regarding the situation, they are only doing what the referee has asked. The Field Marshal must stay calm during the process.

- The referee discusses situation with Field Marshal and requests the spectator(s) to be removed

The Field Marshal should approach the spectator(s) in calm manner and state to them that the referee has requested for them to leave the facility. GA Soccer Youth Rules and Regulations state that the ejected spectator(s) should be clear of sight and sound and may not return to the field.

If an altercation occurs, the Field Marshal must again request the spectator to leave the field. If the spectator refuses, the Field Marshal shall state to the spectator that this is a Private/Public park and if they do not do what the referee is requesting, then they will have to call the Police. If the spectator again refuses to leave the area, the Field Marshal shall go to a neutral area to call the Police.

Once the situation is under control and the spectator has left the area, the Field Marshal shall make notes so a report can be written in the event that the Youth D&P Committee requests additional information regarding the incident. This report is not mandatory, but it will assist the D&P with any decisions that might need to be made in regards to the spectator.