

#### Proposed Change to Rule(s)

Submitted by: Fletcher Corbin, TCSA

Existing Rule: “lack of knowledge of these rules will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in or seeking entry into these programs from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein”

Rule w/ proposed change: Delete the rule

How the Rule would read after proposed change: Would not exist

Rationale: In an occasion during the fall 2025 season where a coach was sent off and continued to show up at matches after receiving their initial send off and being sanctioned by Discipline and Protest Committee, this was used as a valid excuse for the coach to still be present at matches because the coach told GA Soccer staff “he didn’t know” he was supposed to be present

#### Proposed Change to Rule(s)

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Existing Rule: 731. Coach Misconduct

731.1 Any coach dismissed from a game shall be automatically suspended from the next game scheduled and played under US Youth Soccer affiliation and competition. The coach shall not be present at the field or in the parking lot or any adjacent area to the field of play.

731.1a Any coach dismissed for using racial or ethnic slurs or offensive language that includes derogatory comments about gender, sexual orientation, physical ability or religion shall serve a minimum of a two-game suspension. The Georgia Soccer – Youth Discipline and Protest Committee retains the right to increase the suspension.

731.2 Any coach dismissed by the referee from a game must immediately leave sight and sound of the field and cannot return to the field of play until the referee crew has left the field after the completion of the game.

731.3 Failure to leave sight and sound after a dismissal may result in the game being terminated by the referee. Coaches are not permitted to have any contact with players, team management or other coaches during the course of the game from which they are dismissed.

731.4 Once dismissed from the game, coaches may not approach the referee crew during or after the match.

731.5 As Academy teams may play multiple games in a given day, all suspensions for Academy coaches shall be day specific for that age group, not game specific for that age group.

731.6 Game suspension(s) will apply to the team for which the coach received the dismissal.

731.7 Any incident of referee abuse or assault reported by the referee must be considered by the Georgia Soccer D & P Committee - Youth before that coach will be allowed to coach at a regularly-scheduled game.

731.8 In the event the team is disbanded or has played its last game, the sanction will be served at the next game coached by this individual accordingly.

731.9 When a coach is dismissed for a second time for the same team (equivalent to a second red card) in a seasonal year, he is suspended until the Discipline & Protest Committee receives an application for a hearing from the suspended coach, holds such hearing with the coach present, and approves the coach's reinstatement.

731.9a When a coach has been reinstated after the second dismissal, coach must request a reinstatement for each additional dismissal in that seasonal year. Coach may receive additional sanctions.

731.10 Any coach who coaches subsequent games without serving the mandatory suspension will be deemed an ineligible coach and will cause any games in which he coaches to be forfeited.

731.10a Also, a coach will be indefinitely suspended until the Discipline & Protest Committee receives an application for a hearing from the suspended coach, holds such a hearing with the coach present, and approves the coach's reinstatement.

731.10b Standings will be adjusted accordingly, as if the team decided to forfeit.

731.10c Points, if appropriate, accrue.

731.11 Failure to adhere to the above rules in section 731 (Coach Misconduct) may result in additional sanctions being imposed upon the coach by the Georgia Soccer – Youth Discipline and Protest Committee.

731.12 If the team or coach would like to request an exception to the above rules in section 731 (Coach Misconduct), the request must be submitted and approved by the Georgia Soccer – Youth D&P Committee.

How the Rule would read after proposed change: Delete existing rule and change to Discipline for the coach would be determined by the affiliate.

Rationale: In an occasion during the fall 2025 season where a coach was sent off and continued to show up at matches the following specific rules were not enforced by GSSA. If these specific rules are not going to be enforced as written we do not need to have them. This could have changed the trajectory of Covered Bridge SC and Georgia Athletic SC's 17u boys' season.

731.1 Any coach dismissed from a game shall be automatically suspended from the next game scheduled and played under US Youth Soccer affiliation and competition. The coach shall not be present at the field or in the parking lot or any adjacent area to the field of play.

731.1a Any coach dismissed for using racial or ethnic slurs or offensive language that includes derogatory comments about gender, sexual orientation, physical ability or religion shall serve a minimum of a two-game suspension. The Georgia Soccer – Youth Discipline and Protest Committee retains the right to increase the suspension.

731.10 Any coach who coaches subsequent games without serving the mandatory suspension is deemed ineligible and games in which the coach participated shall be forfeited

731.10a Also, a coach will be indefinitely suspended until the Discipline & Protest Committee receives an application for a hearing from the suspended coach, holds such a hearing with the coach present, and approves the coach's reinstatement.

731.10b Standings will be adjusted accordingly, as if the team decided to forfeit.

731.10c Points, if appropriate, accrue.