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# Moving Forward

Dec, 15, 2023



# Agenda

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- NPL update
- League Rules Reminders
- US Club Soccer Discipline
- Referee Overview - Craig
- WPL Discipline stats
- Referee Recruiting drive
- Coaching Education
- Spring Events





# National Premier Leagues Update

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- ❑ Refocused commitment to to create a better platform for Leagues, Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❑ Brand Makeover
- ❑ Redefining mission statement
- ❑ Developing National Standards
- ❑ Creating NPL Regional Showcase events
- ❑ Integrating NPL into ECNL





# NPL Updates

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## **MISSION**

The NPL's mission is to facilitate more meaningful games, reduce travel and provide a pathway to postseason competition.





# NPL Updates

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## **VISION**

The National Premier Leagues will serve youth soccer by forming and collaborating with leagues, adopting the Players First philosophy and supporting US Club Soccer's mission to foster the development of clubs.





## CORE VALUES

- 1** The NPL equips member leagues with tools and best practices to facilitate an optimal youth soccer experience for players, families, coaches and referees.
- 2** The NPL welcomes players who strive to play at the next level, as well as those who want a high-level, competitive atmosphere with their friends.
- 3** The NPL collaborates at every opportunity.
- 4** The NPL's competitive structure is intended to reduce burdens on families by limiting travel.
- 5** The NPL offers national pathways, opportunities and exposure to help players grow on and off the field.





# NPL Updates

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## Match-Day Roster Rules

- The assigned coach's name of record must be printed on the Match Day Roster.
- If the assigned coach is not available, the attending coach's name must be written on each Match Day Roster prior to kick off.
- All Club Staff (maximum of 4), supporting the coach, must have a valid US Club ID card (from their Club) either printed or virtual on them.
- Coach must pass background check
- **Video Policy**
- Video cannot determine outcome of match





# Rule 520 Review

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- Only Club Directors or designated Club staff are allowed to email/file Violation Reports, Referee protests, and/or raise concerns about sideline behavior to the League office.
- Correspondence from any other party (parent, coach, etc.) will not be accepted
- We ask DOC, or equivalent, to filter complaint and determine whether it needs to be reported to the league.
- Club officials shall follow Violation reporting process.
- League does not overturn referee decisions between the lines.





# WPL Discipline Report

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- Persistent Theme of **Violent Conducts** and **Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language**.
- Some of these resulted in player expulsion from the Season/ Year.
- Weekly send-offs were averaging 10 per week which is higher than last season.
- Coaches need to improve Game Day Management and remove the player(s) from game to deescalate the situation.
- More education for Coaches on how to manage Game Day scenarios.

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# Rule 530 Review

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## Match-Suspension Procedures:

- Club Officials may submit evidence related misconducts directly to [discipline@wpl-soccer.com](mailto:discipline@wpl-soccer.com) prior to Wednesday of the week following the Match.
- League will send Charge Email for the expulsion(s) to DOC / Club Official by Thursday of the week following the Match.
- Player is not cleared until the signed Match Report by the Referee is uploaded into GotSport.





# Referee Issues

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- Coach
  - Verbal dissent and irresponsible behavior
  - Responding to Parent behavior
- Players
  - Racial slurs
  - Verbal dissent and persistent arguing
- Parents
  - Verbal Abuse
  - Irresponsible behavior towards a minor





# Game-Day Issues: Most Common

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- Rosters/Cards
  - Write-ins on the roster
  - Missing player card
- Players
  - Not enough players to start
  - Jersey numbers
- Rule variances
  - U12 and below





# Referee Numbers

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## WA Registered Referees

2023 - 4,683

2022 - 3,921

2021 - 3,213

## Referee Retention

2023 - 53%

2022 - 56%

2021 - 78%





- US Club launch national campaign to promote referee retention
- US Club also launching sideline behavior campaign
- WPL launching two referee recruiting drives:
  - South location
  - North location





# US Club Racist & Bigoted Language Protocols

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- In advance of NPL and National Cup Final we are looking to implement the following protocols related to racist and bigoted language.
- The goal would be to trial these and then potentially role them out as SOP for the fall season.
- If a racial slur is used and heard by referee, a player, coach, or parent, and corroborated during the match, then that person will be red carded, or parent/spectator will be asked to leave.
- The the coach of the offending supporter's team could receive a yellow card.
- The player will be banned automatically from the rest of the event, and in the case of a player or coach, additional game suspensions depending how many matches were missed at this event up to 5 Games.
- If a racial slur is alleged during the match, and not corroborated by referee, the player(s) should notify their coach and/or referee, who will then stop the match to allow both coaching staffs to address their players.
- Teams will not return to the field unless BOTH coaches/teams are comfortable to return.





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F\*g F\*ggot H\*mo N\*gger

N\*gro N\*gga Cr\*cker Ch\*nk

Bean\*r P\*to Sp\*c Ret\*rd

P\*ssy G\*y White Boy Monkey





- **League audits**
  - Review Coaching credentials & Licenses
  - Assist Clubs in creating development plans
  - Make sure clubs meet league standards
- **League Standards**
  - Ensure clubs meet WPL league standards
  - Make sure clubs comply with US Club Soccer vision & requirements
  - Oversees rules and discipline committees
- **Coaching Education**
  - Establish Coaching credentials & license courses
  - Reach out to clubs to create custom coaching sessions
  - Developing coaching summits and/or symposiums
  - DOC Diploma offering





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