

# Manitoba Soccer Association Inc.

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## MSA Purple Shirt Respect Campaign

### Campaign Rational

The MSA Purple Shirt Respect Campaign was implemented during the Summer 2021 Outdoor Season to address the issue of dissent against new referees. Referee retention has become an issue for the MSA and its members in recent years. New officials are highly impressionable and sensitive to all forms of dissent. For many who choose to not to continue refereeing, it is because of one or two incidents where they faced mistreatment from players, coaches, or spectators. People who were drawn to refereeing as way to give back to the game are pushed away by this abuse. The Purple Shirt Respect Campaign will aim to curb this decent and make refereeing soccer in Manitoba a more welcoming atmosphere for all officials.



### Significance of the Purple Shirt

The Purple Shirt worn by new referees signifies to teams and spectators that this referee is new to officiating and should be treated with the upmost respect and encouragement while officiating matches. Mistreatment of these new officials will result in hefty suspensions and fines towards the guilty team or individual. Referees wearing the purple shirt will have the power to abandon any game where they feel they are being mistreated or abused in.



## Campaign Outline – Rights of Referees

- Referees have the option to wear a Purple Shirt while Refereeing soccer in Manitoba.
- New Referees will be given their Purple Shirt at the start of the 2022 Referee season.
- The MSA will circulate a memo to all leagues and members regarding the program.
- Referees wearing the purple shirt will have the power to abandon any game where they feel they are being mistreated or abused in.
- The MSA will ask new referees to report any mistreatment to the MSA Referee Department.
- The MSA Referee Department will then discipline any teams or individuals found guilty of abusing an official.

## Purple Shirt Campaign Discipline

Violators of the Purple Shirt Campaign will be subject to the MSA Disciplinary Code and can face suspension and or fines depending on the severity of their abuse against the MSA official.

Additional Red Card Dismissals Players and Club Officials		1 <sup>st</sup> Offence 12 Month Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence 12 Month Period	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offence 12 Month Period	Additional Offence 12 Month Period
Uses Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures towards a game Official	Suspension	4 Games	12 Games	1 Year	Discipline Committee
	Fine	\$50.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	Discipline Committee
Continuing to direct abusive language at and Official	Team Fine	\$100			
Fails to leave vicinity of playing area in timely manner after being dismissed	Suspension	3 additional games			
	Fine	Discipline Committee			
Four dismissals in a 12 month period	Suspension	Suspension and/or fine is open to the Discipline and Appeal Committee			
	Fine				

[MSA Disciplinary Code LINK](#)