

**SAMPLE DECISION LETTER**

*Sample Organization Member  
1801 S. Prairie Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60616*

February 3, 2006

**BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

Joe Smith  
123 Maple Lane  
Chicago, Illinois, 60655

Dear Mr. Smith,

On Saturday, January 31, 2004, Sample Organization Member (“SOM”) held a hearing to consider charges that you violated SOM Rule 5.1 (Referee Abuse) and committed referee abuse under USSF Policy 531-9 (Misconduct Toward Game Officials).

The hearing was convened at 10:00 a.m. The hearing panel heard testimony from Robert Official, the referee for a Boys U-13 match that took place on December 19, 2003. The hearing panel also heard testimony from Bill Sideline, the assistant referee for the match.

At the hearing, you appeared and testified on your own behalf. You also presented testimony from Laura Parent, a parent from your team who was present at the match in question and Kyle Assistant, who served as your assistant coach on the day of the match.

The hearing lasted approximately 45 minutes. After considering all the evidence presented, the hearing panel makes the following findings:

1. You, Joe Smith, served as coach for the Gold Coast Rampage during a Boys U-13 match that took place on December 19, 2003 (“the Match”).
2. Robert Official served as the center referee for the Match. Bill Sideline served as the assistant referee for the Match.
3. During the Match, you repeatedly yelled at Mr. Official that he was making the wrong call, that he didn’t know what he was doing, and that he had lost control of the match. Several times you yelled obscenities. Mr. Official cautioned you

during the second half that you needed to stop yelling and warned you to refrain from using obscenities.

4. At the conclusion of the Match, while Mr. Official was still on the field, you walked onto the field and approached Mr. Official. You yelled at him that he was a “terrible official” and when you were approximately 5 feet away from him you told him that you were going to “kick his butt.” Your assistant coach, Mr. Assistant, placed his hand on your shoulder and pulled you away from the referee.

Based on these findings, it is the conclusion of the hearing panel that:

1. You have violated SOM Rule 5.1 (Referee Abuse) because you improperly addressed the referee “in a threatening manner.”
2. You have committed “referee abuse” under USSF Policy 531-9 because you made a “verbal statement . . . not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee.”
3. You must serve a period of suspension for each rule violation of six months. All suspensions will be served concurrently (together). Your suspension will run from today, **February 3, 2006 through and including August 3, 2006.**

The term “suspension” means a complete cessation of any and all SOM and USSF-affiliated activities. While under suspension, a member may not play or practice for any team, may not coach or in any way assist in the instruction, training, or management of a team, and may not hold any official position of responsibility within any affiliated organization. If you have any questions as to whether you are permitted to engage in certain activities, you should contact SOM first. Please note that failure to abide by the terms of your suspension may subject you to additional discipline, including an extension of your suspension.

You have the right to appeal this decision to the West Virginia soccer Association within five (5) days of receipt of this letter

If you wish to appeal, you should complete the Noti of Appeal and send it with the \$100 appeal fee (in the form of a cashier’s check or money order or paypal, payable to WVSA) to: WVSA 196 Joe L Smith Drive Beckley, WV 25801 or by email to [kristi@wvsoccer.net](mailto:kristi@wvsoccer.net) Please note that if you submit an appeal, you must send a copy of your Notice of Appeal form to SOM.

Sincerely,

Kathy Soccer  
SOM Disciplinary Committee Chairperson