

# Florida Region Purple Card Sanction Policy

## I. Purpose of Purple Card Sanction Policy

The purpose and intent of the Purple Card Sanction Policy is to effectively address and sanction any inappropriate or prohibited behavior exhibited by any NON-PARTICIPANT (such as parents, spectators, members of participating clubs from other teams, etc.), attending and observing any FL Region USAV sanctioned volleyball match. This policy is further intended to preserve order during a volleyball contest and help to maintain the safety and protection of all FL Region USAV members and/or spectators. This policy outlines the procedural usage of the "PURPLE" card, which supplements the yellow and red sanction cards currently in use by match official(s) (as dictated by the DCR). This policy replaces the Penalty Point Sanction policy.

The Region Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct policy remains in effect to cover and address unsporting acts and behavior before or after a match (at times when a referee's authority on a court has not yet begun OR his/her authority has ended).

## II. Prohibited Behavior

- A. Prohibited behavior would include, but not be limited to, any comment(s) made or action(s) displayed, deemed by others as rude, profane, disrespectful, disruptive or aggressive, which interferes with the normal progress of a tournament match.
- B. Any behavior prohibited by USAV and the FL Region Code of Conduct policies
- C. Any misconduct deemed contrary to normally accepted behavior, which results in the unnecessary interruption or disruption of a FL USAV sanctioned match.

## III. Those affected by this policy

This policy applies to the following:

1. Any FL Region adult member, i.e. club directors, coaches, rostered adult(s) or chaperones NOT currently participating in the match that has assumed the role of a spectator. This policy also applies to these same individual(s) displaying misconduct BEFORE the start of a match (once the officials have arrived at the court), as well as AFTER the match has officially ended (until the officials have left the playing area). For misconduct occurring either before officials arrive or after officials have left the playing area, the FL Region Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct applies. (See [Spectator-Parent Code of Conduct](#) for more details)
2. Any FL Region junior player displaying misconduct BEFORE the start of a match, as well as AFTER the match has officially ended.
3. Any non-Region member, i.e. parent(s) or relative(s) of any FL Region member.
4. Any attendee or spectator of a FL Region sanctioned tournament match.

## IV. When this policy is applicable

- A. The use of yellow and red card sanctions for match participants will remain in force, according to the policies and procedures set by the Domestic Competition Rules (DCR)

- B. The use of the "Purple" Sanction card may be applied to any situation during a match where spectator misbehavior occurs and the 1st Referee deems it disruptive to the match and necessary to address the misbehavior.
- C. For misconduct by anyone before officials arrive courtside or after a match has ended and officials have left the playing area, the Parent/Spectator Code of Ethics is in effect.

## V. Application of the Purple Warning Card

### A. Minor misconduct leading to warnings

1. Minor misconduct offenses are not subject to immediate sanction. It is the duty of the first referee to prevent spectators and parents from reaching the sanctioning level. This can be done in two stages:

a. Stage 1: Verbal Warning

b. Stage 2: Issuance of Purple and Yellow Card Warning

This warning is issued to the team to which the offending spectator or parent is affiliated. The first referee shall hold up the Purple and Yellow cards in one hand (on the offending team's side). The captain of the affiliated team will be called over, the offending individual will be communicated to the coach of the team (through the team captain). The coach will acknowledge the warning, verify affiliation with his/her team, and then inform the offender of the warning. If the team only has one (1) coach, he/she should be allowed a reasonable amount of time to inform the offender of the warning prior to the resumption of play. This formal warning is not in itself a sanction but a symbol that misconduct has reached the sanctioning level for the match.

c. In the event a team denies affiliation with the offender, and the offender fails to comply with the first referee's request for identification, the offender will be expelled from the playing facility for the remainder of the day (or depending upon severity, for the remainder of the event). When team affiliation cannot be determined/verified, no warning or sanction is applied to the team or recorded on the scoresheet, but the match will be suspended until tournament staff has removed the offending individual from the playing area.

d. Purple card warnings are assessed to the affiliated team and are in force for the entire match. This means that each team may only receive one purple card warning per match before being subject to further sanction due to spectator behavior.

e. Purple card warnings are recorded on the score sheet but have no other immediate consequences. The second referee will ensure that a "P" is recorded under the "Warning" column for the appropriate team on the scoresheet.

### B. Misconduct Leading to Sanctions

- 1. Inappropriate conduct by a spectator or parent towards officials, playing teams, or other parents/spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offense.

- a. Rude Conduct: Actions contrary to good manners or moral principles
- b. Offensive Conduct: Defamatory or insulting words or gestures or any action expressing contempt.
- c. Aggression: Physical (or simulated) aggression or threatening behavior

### C. Sanction Scale

1. According to the judgment of the first referee and depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the sanctions to be applied and recorded on the score sheet are **Penalty, Expulsion and Disqualification**.
  - a. **Penalty:** For rude, minorly offensive conduct during a match by any parent or spectator (or any second occurrence by a team's spectators after having received a Purple/Yellow warning in the same match), the affiliated team is penalized by awarding a point and service to the opponent. **\*\*NOTE\*\*** - The Florida Region Board of Directors has decreed that no Set Point nor Match Point should be awarded due to a Purple Card Penalty. In situations where a Purple Card Penalty would normally be warranted but the penalty would result in awarding the opponents either "Set Point" or "Match Point", the offense will immediately be raised to Expulsion with no further consequences to the team. (The match will be suspended long enough to have the offending party removed from the match area by tournament staff before play resumes).
  - b. **Expulsion:** Seriously offensive misconduct by any parent or spectator, OR any SECOND occurrence of any Penalty-level behavior, OR any occurrence of Penalty-level behavior on Set Point or Match Point will result in the offender's expulsion from the playing facility for the remainder of the tournament day with no further consequences. (NOTE: Does NOT have to be a spectator that was previously sanctioned.... if the affiliated team of the offender has already received a Purple/Red (Penalty) previously in the match, any further "penalty-level" infraction by ANY spectator affiliated with that team results in that spectator being EXPELLED.
  - c. **Disqualification:** Aggressive misconduct (i.e.: physical attack, implied or threatened aggression) by any parent or spectator results in the offender being immediately disqualified. The offender is immediately removed from the tournament facility and banned from any FL Region USAV sanctioned event, tournament, practice, or related activity. This ban extends to all USAV/FL Region affiliated practice or playing facilities for the remainder of the entire current season. No other consequences are applied.

### D. Application of Misconduct Sanctions

1. When Purple Card Penalty sanctions are issued, it is displayed as Purple and Red cards held up jointly in one hand (on the offending team's side of court). **\*\*NOTED EXCEPTION\*\*** - If Penalty would result in the awarding of either "Set Point" or "Match Point" to the opponents, the infraction is escalated to a Purple Card Expulsion, play is suspended, and the offending party will be removed from the playing area by tournament staff

before play resumes with no further consequence to the team.

2. When Expulsion sanctions are issued, it is displayed as Purple and Red cards held up separately (on the offending team's side of court).
3. When Disqualifications are issued, no cards will be displayed. The first referee immediately stops the match and secures the safety of match participants. All Expulsions or Disqualifications of Spectators require the notification and involvement of the Lead Official and/or Site Director for the following purposes:
  - a. Documentation, e.g. Incident Reports, Facility forms, etc.
  - b. Timely notification of the FL Region Board of Directors
  - c. Secure the removal of the offender from the facility
4. All misconduct sanctions are individual sanctions, remain in force for the entire match and are recorded on the score sheet ("P" in Penalty column).
5. Repetition of misconduct by the same parent or spectator in the same match is sanctioned progressively, which means that a more severe sanction is given for each successive offense.
6. Expulsions or Disqualifications due to offensive or aggressive misconduct do not require a previous sanction.

**NOTE: Upon the refusal of the offender to vacate the playing facility, local law enforcement will be notified immediately.**

#### E. Reinstatement

Parents or spectators sanctioned with a **Disqualification** can only be reinstated, by a recommendation of the FL Region's Appointed Incident Review Committee and the approval of the Region Commissioner.

#### VI. Application of Misconduct Warnings and Sanctions Against Junior Players

If a currently registered USAV junior player displays misconduct in a Region tournament as a spectator during a match or before/after a match, the following sanction guidelines shall be applied:

1. Any misconduct warranting a warning or sanction shall be directed by the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct.
2. If a junior player is charged with expulsion or disqualification, the player becomes the direct responsibility of the parent(s) or the head coach/club director.
  - a. Junior players are not to be expelled or ejected from any playing facility individually, but instead fall under the direct supervision of their parent(s) or the head coach/club director. No further participation by the player is allowed.
  - b. Any non-participant, currently registered USAV junior player who receives an Expulsion or Disqualification (as a spectator) must be immediately reported to the FL Region Office.

#### VII. Recording of Purple Card Warnings and Sanctions on the Score Sheet

1. Issuance of Purple and Yellow Cards jointly (Misconduct Warning)  
Record a "P" in the **W Warn** column, team at fault (A or B), set number, and score at time of warning (Offending team's score first).
2. Issuance of Purple and Red Cards jointly (Misconduct Penalty)
  - a. Record a "P" in the **P Penalty** column, team at fault (A or B), set number,

and the score at the time of penalty (Offending team's score first).

- If penalty is against the serving team, record the serving team's exit score and award a penalty point to the opponents (Slash and circle the opposing team's next point in the **POINTS COLUMN** for the opponents).
  - If penalty is against the receiving team, award a penalty point to the opponents (Slash and circle the opposing team's next point in the **POINTS COLUMN** for the opponents).
  - **\*\*NOTE\*\*** - If the resulting penalty point would result in the end of the set (or the match), the referees should be notified immediately that this sanction must be escalated to a Purple Card Expulsion with no further consequence to the team.
3. Issuance of Purple and Red Cards shown apart (Misconduct Expulsion)  
Record a "P" in the **E Expel** column, team at fault (A or B), set number, and score at time of expulsion (Offending team's score first).
- a. No loss of service or penalty point awarded.
4. For a Purple Card Disqualification, a note is recorded in the **REMARKS** Section listing the following information: Purple Card Disqualification, Full Name of offender (If available), the team at fault, the set number, and the score at the time of the Disqualification (Score of team at fault is listed first)
- a. No loss of service or penalty point is awarded.

#### VIII. **Summary of Misconduct and Card Display**

**Warning** (No Sanction): Stage 1 – Verbal Warning  
Stage 2 – Purple/Yellow cards held jointly (1 Hand)

- Warning recorded on score sheet

**Penalty** (Point and serve to opponent): Purple/Red cards held jointly (1 Hand)

- Penalty recorded on scoresheet

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** - On Set Point or Match Point, escalates to Expulsion

**Expulsion** (Expelled from playing facility for remainder of Tournament day):

Purple and Red cards held separately

- First referee stops the match
- Head Official / Site Director notified
- Offender is removed from venue by staff
- Expulsion is recorded on score sheet

**Note: For Expulsion of registered USAV members (non-match-participants), tournament director must notify Florida Region office as soon as possible.**

**Disqualification** (Ejected from facility or removal/Suspended from Region Tournaments for remainder of season):

NO cards are displayed

- First referee stops the match
- Head Official / Site Director notified
- Offender is removed from venue by staff
- Disqualification is recorded on score sheet

**Note: For Disqualification of registered USAV members (non-match-participants), tournament director must notify Florida Region office as soon as possible.**