WHATS NEW:

MINOR REFEREE MULTIPLIER ADJUSTMENTS

Reminders:

This adjustment introduces flexibility in minimum application, not a reduction in accountability. Member Organizations may, and should, assign penalties above the minimum where the conduct warrants it.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

UPDATED MAY 2026

What we heard:

The current mandatory 3x multiplier for incidents involving minor referees is too rigid and often produces disproportionate outcomes.

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES ADULT REFREE	MIN. GAMES MINOR ON MINOR	MIN. GAMES ADULT ON MINOR	OR MIN TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	1	1	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	4	8	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6	18	3 - 12 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	10	30	12 - 24 Months

Solution:

Changes to the Minor Multiplier:

- Removed the multiplier for any offense by a minor
- Introduced a tiered-multiplier for offenses committed by an adult on a minor referee; 2x for Yellow and Orange, maintaining the 3x multiplier for both Red categories.

Changes to the Minimum Penalty in Time:

- Decreased the minimum time on Level 3 Red from 6 months to 3 months so that threatening physical violence doesn't have the same minimum time suspension as physical violence itself.
- Decreased the Level 1 (Yellow) category from 2 to 1 games, therefore, if a Red Card is issued during the game for this offense, there is no requirement for a hearing

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

UPDATED MAY 2026

What we heard:

Applying the same penalties to minor-on-minor incidents does not reflect developmental realities and can lead to excessive bans.

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES ADULT REFREE	MIN. GAMES MINOR ON MINOR	MIN. GAMES ADULT ON MINOR	OR MIN TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	3	9	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	10	30	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime	36 Months - Lifetime	12 Months - Lifetime

Solution:

Changes to the Minor Multiplier:

- Removed the multiplier for any offense by a minor