



SOCCER CAUTION AND EJECTION HELP GUIDE 2025 SEASON

CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARD)

- Regular season accumulated cautions (Rule 12.5):
 - 5 cautions in one season = suspension from the next regularly scheduled game.
 - 3 additional cautions in one season (8 total) = suspension from the next regularly scheduled game.
 - Each 2 additional cautions (10 total, 12 total, etc.) = suspension from the next regularly scheduled game.
 - Suspensions carry over to postseason (conference tournament/NCAA tournament) and/or the next season if the team doesn't participate in postseason.
- Postseason accumulated cautions (Rule 12.6):
 - Regular season caution accumulation carries into postseason (conference tournament/NCAA tournament).
 - 8 cautions = suspension from the next regularly scheduled game. (NOTE: If a player enters postseason with 4 or fewer cautions, they are not required to serve a suspension until they reach their 8th caution).
 - Each 2 additional cautions (10 total, 12 total, etc.) = suspension from the next regularly scheduled game.
 - Suspensions carry over to the next season.
- NOTE: Cautions do **not** carry an immediate ejection even if a threshold listed above is met during the game. Players are permitted to continue playing for the entirety of that game. EXCEPTION: A second caution issued to a player in the same game results in a red card, which requires immediate ejection.
- EXAMPLE: If a player enters the game with 4 cautions, they are NOT ejected from the game at the time they receive their 5th caution. However, they are required to serve a one game suspension in the next regularly scheduled game (this is applicable to situations involving an 8th caution, 10th caution, etc.).

EJECTIONS (RED CARD)

- All red card ejections = immediate ejection and at least a one game suspension. All suspensions must be served during the next regularly scheduled game(s).
- Red card ejections for violent behavior II (Rule 12.7.10.2) and fighting (Rule 12.7.11) = immediate ejection and a two-game suspension. (The length of suspension is appealable).
- Red card ejections for assaulting a referee (Rule 12.7.12) = immediate ejection and a three-game suspension.
- A second red card ejection in the same season results in an additional game suspension, and the same applies to each successive ejection thereafter. (Rule 12.8.1)
- Two red card ejections in the same season for violent behavior II, fighting or referee assault (or any combination) will result in suspension for the remainder of the season. (Rule 12.8.4)
- Suspensions carry over to the next season.

EXAMPLES FOR REGULAR SEASON

SITUATION	PENALTY	EXPLANATION
A1 has accumulated 4 yellow cards and receives 1 red card.	Immediate ejection and 1-game suspension.	Suspended 1 game for the red card ejection.
A1 receives two yellow cards in the next game in which they participate, which equals 1 yellow card and 1 red card. Totals: 5 yellow cards and 2 red cards.	Immediate ejection and 3-game suspension.	Suspended 1 game for 5 th yellow card plus one game for the red card and an additional game for the 2 nd red card ejection of the season. (Total of 3 games)
After serving their suspension, A1 receives 6th, 7th and 8th yellow cards in each of the next 3 games. Totals: 8 yellow cards and 2 red cards.	1-game suspension after 8 th yellow card.	Suspended 1 game for accumulation of 8 th yellow card during the regular season.
After serving their suspension, A1 receives 1 fighting red card. Totals: 8 yellow cards and 3 red cards (1 fighting).	Immediate ejection and 4-game suspension.	Suspended 2 games for the fighting red card and 2 additional games for receiving the 3 rd red card of the season.

SITUATION	PENALTY	EXPLANATION
B1 has accumulated 4 yellow cards and receives 2 yellow cards in the same game, which equals 1 yellow and 1 red. Totals: 5 yellow cards and 1 red card.	Immediate ejection and 2-game suspension.	Suspended 1 game for 5 th yellow card plus additional game for red card ejection.
After serving their suspension, B1 receives 6th, 7th and 8th yellow cards in each of the next 3 games. Totals: 8 yellow cards and 1 red card.	1-game suspension after 8 th yellow card.	Suspended 1 game for accumulation of 8 th yellow card during the regular season.

After serving their suspension, B1 receives 1 fighting red card. Totals: 8 yellow cards and 2 red cards (1 fighting).	Immediate ejection and 3-game suspension.	Suspended 2 games for the fighting red card and 1 additional game for receiving the 2 nd red card of the season.
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EXAMPLE FOR POSTSEASON

SITUATION	PENALTY	EXPLANATION
C1 has accumulated 4 yellow cards and 1 red card during the regular season and has served the 1-game suspension before the postseason.	C1 served the 1-game suspension for the red card.	Regular-season scenario for C1.
C1 receives a caution in the 1 st postseason game. Totals: 5 yellow cards and 1 red card.	No penalty.	The card accumulation threshold increases to 8 yellow cards in the postseason.
C1 receives 6th, 7th and 8th yellow cards in each of the next 3 games. Totals: 8 yellow cards and 1 red card.	1-game suspension after 8 th yellow card.	The card accumulation threshold increases to 8 yellow cards in the postseason.
After serving their suspension, C1 receives 9th and 10th yellow cards in each of the next two games, with the 10 th being in the final game of the season. Totals: 8 yellow cards and 1 red cards.	1-game suspension after 10 th yellow card, which carries into the next season.	Suspended 1 game for accumulation of 10 th yellow card during the postseason. Since it occurred in the final game of the season, the suspension must be served in the first regularly scheduled game (non-exhibition) of the next season.