

# USA WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL LEAGUE - 24 HOUR RULE

All athletes, coaches, officials and team representatives within the USA Wheelchair Football League have agreed to follow Move United's code of conduct. Within that code of conduct is the requirement to "uphold the spirit of fair play by observing the written and unwritten rules of the game on and off the field of play, including but not limited to integrity, solidarity, tolerance, care, team spirit, and respect."

To support this goal, Move United's USA Wheelchair Football League has adopted a 24-hour rule. Coaches, players, team support staff and family members are not allowed to confront an official, Move United team member or volunteer to discuss any event that may have taken place in a tournament until after 24 hours have passed from the tournament's completion. This rule is meant to promote a more respectful and constructive approach to handling issues that may arise.

Here's a breakdown of how the 24-hour rule works:

- **Promotes Emotional Cooling Off:** The 24-hour rule encourages participants to take a step back and allow their emotions to cool off before objectively addressing any concerns or disputes. Sports can be emotionally charged, and everyone may react impulsively in the heat of the moment. Waiting for 24 hours can help participants gain perspective and approach the issue more objectively, calmly and rationally.
- **Prevents Immediate Confrontation:** The rule discourages participants from confronting staff, officials, other team representatives, or their own athletes immediately after a game, especially if they are upset or angry. Confrontations in the heat of the moment can escalate tensions and make it more challenging to reach a productive resolution.
- **Encourages Effective Communication:** The 24-hour rule encourages participants to engage in effective communication with league officials. It promotes a constructive approach to resolving disputes or concerns, which can lead to better outcomes for all parties involved.
- **Supports Resolution and Feedback:** After the 24-hour cooling-off period, participants can seek a private and respectful conversation with the relevant parties. This allows them to express their concerns, seek clarification, and work toward a resolution. It's important to approach these conversations with a willingness to listen, collaborate, and find common ground. It is also important to remember that officiating decisions are inherently subjective, and disagreement with judgment calls is an unavoidable part of competitive sport and does not, by itself, constitute grounds for review or reversal.
- **Promoting Sportsmanship:** By following the 24-hour rule, coaches and team support staff can model good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior for their athletes. This can have a positive impact on the athlete's own behavior and attitude.

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Once 24 hours have passed and you still would like to discuss the event, you may reach out to the league directly at [kly@moveunitedsport.org](mailto:kly@moveunitedsport.org). All issues, concerns, and reported violations will be addressed in a timely manner (ideally within 48 business hours, although mid-season issues may take longer due to staff availability) and escalated to the appropriate parties in accordance with Move United's Code of Conduct.

If the event is related to a potential violation of Move United's Sport Protection Policy, the 24-hour rule does not apply and you should both alert an onsite staff member, if appropriate, and file a report immediately using the form on Move United's website with as much detail as possible. Reports can be filed at <https://moveunitedsport.org/membership/sport-protection/sport-protection-reporting/>

Violations of the 24-hour rule will be considered violations of Move United's Code of Conduct and will follow the policies outlined in that document for potential sanctions.

