

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Poor sporting behavior incidents reported to



National Association of Sports Officials

Every day in America and around the world, sports officials are physically and verbally harassed. Most incidents do not require police or medical assistance, but in some cases, the harassment turns violent.

The fact that such behavior occurs at sporting events involving youth participants is appalling in itself, but the frequency in which these reports now occur is even more disturbing.

NASO receives more than 100 reports annually that involve physical contact between coaches, players, fans and officials. The nearly 18,000 member organization is not the "clearinghouse for bad behavior," says NASO President Barry Mano, but it is the belief by NASO that the reports it receives is only the "tip of the iceberg."

The following are examples of some incidents.

- Pennsylvania (Basketball) — A parent body-slammed a high school referee after he ordered the man's wife out of the gym for allegedly yelling obscenities during a basketball game. The referee was treated at a hospital for a concussion and released after the Feb. 6 attack. Charged with simple assault, assault on a sports official, reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct is Peter J. Dukovich, 47, Hampton, Pa. (Contributing source: *CNN.com*) **UPDATE:** RaeLynn Dukovich was levied the maximum fine of \$300 and court costs for her involvement in the incident. (Contributing source: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*)
- Pennsylvania (Basketball) — A parent body-slammed a high school referee after he ordered the man's wife out of the gym for allegedly yelling obscenities during a basketball game. The referee was treated at a hospital for a concussion and released after the Feb. 6 attack. Charged with simple assault, assault on a sports official and disorderly conduct is Peter J. Dukovich, 47, Hampton, Pa. (Contributing source: *CNN.com*, 2/10/04)
- Kentucky (Basketball) — During a fifth grade little league game in Adair County, one players father (and a teacher for the school district) physically confronted the game official during half-time after the official ejected several players for a fight that broke out during the first half of the game. (Contributing source: *WBKO-TV*, 1/13/04)
- New Jersey (Soccer) — Referee James Clay, a 50-year-old with seven years of officiating experience, was slugged in the head and neck after ejecting a Clayton High School player with 12:47 left in a scoreless game, 10/10/03. The player, who had received a yellow card earlier in the game for incidental cursing, was given a red-yellow card for taunting about 15 minutes after the first incident. A red-yellow results in immediate ejection. The player, whose name cannot be released because he is younger than 18, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault. He was released to the custody of his parents. (Contributing source: *Philadelphia Inquirer* — Reported in Referee 1/04 issue.)

- New Jersey (Baseball) – Nicokla Antuofermo, 39, of Old Bridge, was indicted on 11/21/03 by the Manmouth County grand jury and charged with assault at a youth sports event for an incident that occurred on July 11 during a Babe Ruth baseball game. Antuofermo allegedly bumped and then punched the umpire during an argument. Under the New Jersey law, he could face up to 18 months in prison and \$10,000 in fines. (October 2003)
- Illinois (Football) – James Camden, 43, of Murphysboro was charged with two counts of aggravated battery and one count of battery after allegedly charging onto the field and attempting to choke game official Mike Byrne, a 27-year officiating veteran. Franklin County Assistant State's Attorney Aaron Hopkins said that battery is a misdemeanor and aggravated battery is a Class 4 felony, which could include prison time if convicted. "We intend to prosecute the individual to the fullest extent of the law," said Frankfort High School Athletics Director Richard Glodich. (September 2003)
- Kentucky (Baseball) – Roger Bratcher, a father of a T-ball player was briefly jailed after an outburst against an umpire during a game involving 5- and 6-year-olds. The accused threatened to beat the umpire moments before walking onto the field and starting a fight with Eddie Smith, who was officiating the game, according to the criminal complaint. A girl who was playing in the game suffered a minor injury when she was struck in the face during the scuffle. (July 2003) **UPDATE: Both Bratcher, Jr., Smith and another individual involved in the incident received five-year bans from Daviess County parks and playgrounds.**
- Illinois (Softball) – An irate father headbutted softball umpire Tim Smith in a confrontation following a girls softball game in Sunnyland. The mother had earlier been ejected for berating the umpire. The father faces a charge of battery. (July 2003)
- Oklahoma (Basketball) – Five players and a spectator were charged with beating a referee following a men's basketball league game June 25 in Broken Arrow. All six allegedly struck referee Eltonio Waylon Henry of Tulsa on the head several times, pushed him to the ground and kicked him about the head and body "with force and violence" police records report. (July 2003)
- Oklahoma (Baseball) – Yukon High School baseball coach Larry McVay allegedly attacked umpire Clendon Cannon in the umpires' room following a game with Moore High School. Cannon suffered a bruised lip, knot over his left eye and a sore right shoulder. Following an internal investigation by the Yukon superintendent, McVay resigned his coaching position with the school. (July 2003)
- Ohio (Soccer) – Major League Soccer's Disciplinary Committee fined Los Angeles Galaxy Coach Sigi Schmid \$500 on April 19 for his action following an April 5 Galaxy-Columbus Crew game in Columbus, Ohio. After the 1-1 draw between the two teams, Schmid went into the Referee Secure Area, which is against league rules. Officials for the match were: referee Kevin Terry, assistant referees Craig Lowry and Richard Eddy, and fourth official Ricardo Salazar. (April 2003)
- International (Soccer) – The FIFA Disciplinary Committee ruled May 9 that Brazilian soccer player Roberto Carlos will have to sit out from the national team for three matches because he hit a referee. Carlos can still play for his club team, Real Madrid, but the national team from Brazil will have to move forward without him for a few games as a result of the suspension. The incident happened March 29 during Brazil's 2-1 loss to Portugal. Carlos was ejected in the 81st minute of the game. According to FIFA, Carlos hit Israeli referee Alon Yefet with his shoulder after Yefet awarded a free kick. (March 2003)
- Hawaii (Soccer) – Referee Kaleo Benz was pushed to the ground by a high school player on Feb. 12

H-2

following a state quarterfinal game between Pearl City and Baldwin high schools. Benz had issued a yellow card to the player involved earlier in the contest. Benz was not injured as a result of the attack, but he did file a criminal assault complaint against the player. The Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) and the Maui Interscholastic League (MIL) did its own investigation and handed out penalties. The HHSAA executive board ruled April 10 that Baldwin boys' soccer coach Fred Guzman is banned for five years from coaching at the state tournament, Saffery is banned from participation in any state sports event and the team is on "conduct probation" for a year, which means they can compete but will be monitored closely. The MIL principals unanimously voted to support the actions taken by the HHSAA executive board. According to Keith Amemiya, HHSAA executive director, there was "overwhelming evidence" of other acts of poor sportsmanship by the Baldwin team during the season. Following the sanctions, Baldwin High School fired Guzman. (Feb. 2003)

- Illinois (Baseball) – During the Chicago White Sox versus Kansas City Royals professional baseball game on 4/15, on four separate occasions fans ran on to the field disrupting play. The fourth interruption involved a fan that attacked umpire Laz Diaz, trying to wrestle the umpire to the ground. Twenty-four year-old Eric Dybas was charged with felony aggravated battery and misdemeanor criminal trespass. Bail was set at \$250,000. If convicted, Dybas faces two to five years in prison according to prosecutors. (April 2003)
- Maryland (Hockey) – Washington Capital fans vented their frustration at the officials by littering the ice with bottles and other items after the final goal was scored during a playoff game between the NHL Capitals and the Tampa Bay Lightning. (April 2003)
- New York (Hockey) – Linesman Randy Levine was busy trying to break up a fight between two players during a junior varsity high school hockey game when suddenly, he said, he was pulled backward by his uniform and knocked to the ice, where he hit his head. Then he felt someone fall on him. Officials from the High School Hockey League of Nassau County, which is not affiliated with the county or its schools, said the man, identified in an Old Brookville police report as Robert A. Schmitt, opened the door to the rink, lumbered onto the ice, and grabbed a 15-year-old player from the Cold Spring Harbor team in a chokehold. He then grabbed Levine, witnesses said, knocking him down and falling on him, before game officials dragged him off the ice. Neither Levine, 47, nor the player, identified by police as Andrew McAvoy, were seriously injured. League officials identified Schmitt as a father of a member of the Oceanside team. The police report said Schmitt was arrested and charged with third-degree assault with intent to injure and third-degree attempted assault. (March 2003)
- Iowa (Basketball) – The parent of a Davenport Assumption basketball player turned the team's final game of the regular season into a boxing match by assaulting a referee who was getting ready to shower after the game, police said. Assumption parent Daniel Ewen, 47, of Davenport, went down the stairs and began pounding on the glass near the referee locker room, upset about a call at the end of the game, police said. Referee Timothy McCann, 46, of Eldridge, wore only a towel when he opened the door to ask Ewen to leave, police said. Ewen leaped through the opened door and assaulted McCann, who was treated and released at Genesis Medical Center-East Campus for injuries to his right arm and face, police said. Police cited Ewen for assault with injury, a serious misdemeanor. (March 2003)
- Texas (Basketball) – Dallas Mavericks forward Eduardo Najera was suspended one game by the NBA on 2/26 for bumping referee David Jones. (February 2003)
- Florida (Soccer) – Parent Tim Enright enters the soccer field to check on his son, who has been injured in a skirmish for the ball. Angry that a more severe penalty had not been levied on the opposing player, Enright confronts the referee and shoves him to the ground. The game is stopped at 13:25 remaining in the second half and forfeited by Orange Park High School to Nease High School with 13:25 remaining

in the second half. Enright has been banned from attending all extracurricular activities involving Orange Park for at least one year and possibly through his son's graduation. (January 2003)

- Ohio (Hockey) – A 13-year-old player for a Cleveland Heights youth hockey team will be charged with assault in juvenile court after a referee was hit on the ice after a game, police said. The player punched a referee in the face, knocking him down, police said. According to Rocky River Police Department Detective Phil Morrin, it marks the first time anyone has faced criminal charges in a youth-sports event in the city. The suspension could be extended to a year following a hearing by USA Hockey, the sport's national governing organization. (November 2002)
- Georgia (Football) – A bottle tossed from the Georgia Tech student section after a game against Florida State struck official Sam Stephenson as he was running off the field and left a bump on the back of his head. Stephenson, a lineman, was treated by the Yellow Jackets' staff of medical trainers and did not require further attention. (November 2002)
- California (Basketball) – Dontravian Evans, 29, received a sentence of nine months in jail following his felony assault conviction for punching a referee at a recreational basketball game in Long Beach. In addition to the jail sentence, Evans received three years probation and must pay \$3,400 to the victim, referee Kevin Robinson, for medical bills. The incident happened on 9/13/00, early in the game when the score was only 2-0. Evans, who was upset about a call, struck Robinson when he was looking at the scorers' table. Robinson didn't see the punch coming. The blow caused permanent damage to Robinson's eye. (September 2002)
- New Zealand (Rugby) – Some junior rugby spectators who attacked a referee face a possible lifetime suspension for their action. New Zealand Rugby League Chairman Sel Pearson announced the possible sanctions. The attack on referee Neil Galvin occurred after he stopped an under-10 rugby match because of rough play. Galvin suffered multiple bruises and abrasions as the result of being punched and kicked by the accused spectators. (August 2002)
- Maryland (Soccer) – According to Hyattsville police, a man has been charged with attempted first-degree murder for an attack on a soccer referee. The attack occurred minutes after the man had been ejected from a "non-sanctioned adult league" game. Doctors informed police that had the knife been slightly longer, the victim would not have survived. (August 2002)
- New Jersey (Baseball) – Brownie troop mother Lois Collinson faces charges after she jumped a fence and approached an umpire about a call during a minor league game. The confrontation took place in the seventh inning of a match-up between New Jersey and Staten Island after New Jersey Cardinals' player Justin Hieman was thrown out on an infield grounder. Park security officers responded and told Collinson to exit the field, but she refused and was handcuffed. Collinson was escorted from the field, processed in Newton and later released. (June 2002)
- Ontario (Basketball) – A Brampton, Ontario basketball coach pled guilty in provincial court to assault charges for head butting a referee. The blow that referee Barry Cullen received from Paul Lewin during a game in January of 2002, resulted in a broken nose and more than two hours of surgery. In addition to fines, the Superior Court justice on the case sentenced Lewin to probation, an anger management course and 100 hours of community service. (May 2002)
- Louisiana (Baseball) – A Mandeville, La., father allegedly made the call to attack an umpire following his seven-year-old son's baseball game, pushing the man in blue against a bathroom wall and threatening to kill him. Ron Singleton, 28, was charged with battery after the encounter with 21-year-old

umpire Alan Terry. During the game, Terry had ejected both of Singleton's son's coaches for disputing calls. Park workers stopped the scuffle and called the police. Terry had bruises on his throat and elbow, but did not require medical treatment. (May 2002)

- Tennessee (Baseball) – Umpire John Garland of Nashville, Tenn., pointed out a couple of unsafe bats to a Little League coach during a youth game and ended up the victim of violence a day later. Garland said that Coach Jason Swafford approached he and his 17-year-old son, Brian, who also umpires, in the parking lot after games the next night. Swafford allegedly pushed, shoved and punched John Garland in the neck when he turned his back to walk away. He also struck Brian Garland, who had pointed out the same bats in Swafford's game that night as his father did a day earlier. (April 2002)
- South America (Soccer) – A South American soccer match between Chile's Cobreloa and Paraguay's Olimpia lasted only until half-time because the contest's referee was injured by a coin thrown from the stands. While players were heading to the locker room, Argentine referee Angel Sanchez was hit in the right temple with the coin. Sanchez was not seriously injured, but he had to be transported to the hospital. The match concluded tied at 1-1. (April 2002)
- Tennessee (Baseball) – A youth league baseball coach was barred indefinitely from coaching his Little League teams and was criminally charged for pushing, shoving and punching an umpire in the Madison Little League. The umpire had disqualified two aluminum bats prior to the start of a 9- and 10-year-olds game based on a safety rule. (April 2002)
- Florida (Softball) – A co-ed softball game turned violent when 34-year-old Charles J. Mitchell (Boca Raton) allegedly assaulted and battered 74-year-old volunteer umpire Les Barr during a recreational game in Coconut Creek, Fla. Barr suffered a fractured kneecap and inflamed a World War II arm injury during the fracas. According to eyewitnesses, problems began after the second inning when Mitchell objected to Barr calling a teammate out at second base and used a common vulgarity. Mitchell took his position at first base for the next inning while continuing to berate Barr with vulgarities, who issued a warning, then ejected him. Mitchell then spat in Barr's face, according to police. When Barr turned to wipe hi face, police said Mitchell jumped the umpire from behind, putting him into a chokehold and wrestling him to the ground. As Barr lost consciousness, two players pried Mitchell off the umpire. Mitchell was booked for aggravated battery on the elderly, a first-degree felony. (March 2002)
UPDATE: On 10/20/03 Mitchell pled guilty. He received no jail time but was sentenced to 250 hours of community service benefiting the elderly or infirmed. A civil suit is planned. (October 2003)
- Montana (Basketball) – A basketball fan from Columbus, Montana, received a \$300 fine from the court for throwing a water bottle at a game official. Lance Sundberg was also sentenced to a six-month deferred jail sentence. Jim Haugen, executive director of the Montana High School Association, says there may be further punishment for Columbus High School, because of Sundberg's lack of remorse. In a letter to the editor of the Columbus paper, Sundberg continued his complaints about the official and maintained his action was justified by "unfair" officiating. (March 2002)
- Texas (Swimming) — A man was arrested after shoving the referee into a swimming pool during a morning swim meet among children in San Antonio. Benjamin Mora was not injured in the incident that centered around his disqualification of the parent's 8-year-old child. (February 2002)
- Louisiana (Basketball) – In the wake of attacks on two high school basketball officials, the Mississippi Private School Association (MPSA) suspended all athletics at Bowling Green (La.) High School for the remainder of the year. Additionally, the school will play no home basketball games in the 2002-03

season, will pay a \$1,500 fine and will remain on probation through the 2003-04 school year. The MPSA also imposed lifetime bans on three men arrested after the brawl. The incident occurred during Bowling Green's Jan. 25 game against Brookhaven Academy. According to witnesses, a fight started when one official called a technical foul on a Bowling Green player. A man approached the officials while they were reporting the foul and threw a punch at one of the officials. As the official defended himself, at least two other men joined the attack. One of the officials was knocked unconscious. (January 2002)

- California (Soccer) – Francis Soto, a Palm Springs soccer official was stabbed by four assailants in the Big League Dreams Sports Complex on Jan. 20. Police suspect the attack is related to a revenge against Soto for a game he had officiated a month earlier. Jorge Avilez Perez, 27, Palm Springs, is suspected of attempted murder in the attack and is still being sought, though officials believe he fled to Mexico, where he has friends and family. (January 2002)
- Arkansas (Basketball) – The court was cleared and games were cancelled as a result of a confrontation that occurred after a referee's call Jan. 19 at a grade school basketball in Greers Ferry, Ark. The six-grade boys' game between Mt. Vernon-Enola and Greers Ferry got out of hand when Mt. Vernon-Enola school board member James Beene came onto the court to confront the referees. A scuffle ensued, police were called and the gym was eventually cleared following the incident. Mt. Vernon-Enola games were also cancelled the week following. As a result of the situation, the superintendents of schools for the conference met to write up a policy to police fans at athletic games. (January 2002)
- Canada (Hockey) – A punch thrown by an adult hockey player after a Jan. 13 recreational game at Montreal West Arena resulted in a broken nose for a referee. Hockey player Scott Leduc allegedly struck referee Jeremy Rosenfield, 22, when he came out of the locker room following the game. Rosenfield had to be taken to the hospital, and filed a complaint with the police the next day. According to Joe Raie, head of the adult league, Leduc was immediately expelled from the league as a result of his actions. (January 2002)
- Ohio and Louisiana (Football) — During the 14th week of the NFL season, fans pelt the officials with plastic and glass bottles as well as other items thrown from the stands. The league is considering changes in its security procedures and numerous fans face action by the host teams. (December 2001)
- Indiana (Soccer) — Following an adult indoor soccer match, a player attacks the game referee as he is attempting to get in his car to leave. Angry over a call during the game, the player kicks the official in the back, elbows him in the back of his head and tries to choke the official. Witnesses come to the rescue of the official and police are called. Charges of assault are pending. (December 2001)
- Sweden (Soccer) -- A soccer goalie was sentenced to two years in prison Nov. 30 for attacking a referee during a Sept. 22 game. Claudio Rubino Jerez also was ordered to pay \$8,000 in damages to Ariel Scaparro, a court official said. Scaparro was hospitalized with a broken cheekbone and right foot. Scaparro was attacked twice during a fifth-division game in a Stockholm suburb after he had ejected Rubino Jerez because of a severe foul. All 12 fifth-division weekend games in Stockholm were canceled a week after the attack. Rubino Jerez' team, Tensta United, was expelled from the league. (November 2001)
- Montana (Football) — A Rocky Mountain College football player was arrested on Nov. 10 on a charge of assaulting a game official moments after Montana State University — Northern's 31-28 overtime defeat of Rocky. The player sprinted about 60 yards and hit umpire Rick Deady in the back with a

forearm at full speed, knocking the official to the ground. (November 2001) UPDATE: The player, Marlon Grier, was sentenced to six months in jail suspended and 50 hours of community service. He must also take an anger management course, pay restitution for Deady's medical bill, produce a written apology and cover court costs. (November 2001)

- Florida (Football) — Treavor Harvey, a 34-year-old, 270-pound youth football coach punched referee Tony Kormansek because he thought the game of seven-year-olds was getting too rough. The coach had been penalized earlier in the game twice for unsportsmanlike behavior and had to be pulled off the referee after charging onto the field. "He was going crazy," Kormansek told a local Sarasota television station. "I didn't even get the time to spit out that he was ejected. He just came out swinging." (November 2001)
- New Mexico (Football) — Youth football coach Jake Garcia, 31, hit referee Edmund Romero, 31, "in the face with a closed fist" after disagreeing with a call, Santa Fe, N.M., police said. The fracas occurred after an Oct. 20 title game in a league for 12- and 13-year-olds. Garcia's team lost 13-12. Romero suffered a broken tooth, abrasions to his face and a bloody nose. (October 2001)
- Indiana (Football) — The father of a Wallace High School football player in Gary was arrested during a sectional game against Merrillville. Thirty-nine-year-old William Willis is accused of punching and shoving a referee. Wallace coach John Hoover says Willis became upset when the team was losing Friday night and went to talk with his son, junior lineman Will Willis. Police say Willis struck referee Andrew Simpson after Simpson asked him to leave the sidelines. Simpson fell on his back but was not injured. Merrillville beat Wallace 41-to-nothing. (September 2001)
- Iowa (Soccer) — An adult soccer championship game being contested by a team made up of Latino players with Mexican roots against a team of Salvadoran heritage was within minutes of ending, with the score 3-2, when a player from the trailing team was ejected. The player then kicked a referee, which led to the game's being called. A fight ensued, and the crowd jumped in, witnesses said. One fan, wielding a gun, was shot and killed by police gunfire. (August 2001)
- Massachusetts (Hockey) — Mark Haroules, 40, attacked state police trooper Joseph J. Hilton after a July 27 game in which Hilton officiated. Haroules was coaching a team of mostly girls, 13 to 15-years old, against a younger boy's team when a fight broke out during the postgame handshake ceremony. UPDATE: Haroules was fined and placed on probation after admitting to sufficient facts for guilt to two counts of assault and battery, as well as one count each of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. (July 2001)
- Canada (Hockey) — The assistant coach of a Minnesota youth hockey team is criminally charged following a rink rage incident involving a 22-year-old referee during a minor peewee (13-year-olds) tournament game. (July 2001)
- Maryland (Soccer) — A girls soccer team (U14) is suspended for the entire fall season after a teenage referee is harassed and physically threatened. (July 2001)
- Wisconsin (Baseball) — A coach and his assistant, after having been ejected from a 13 and-under youth baseball game confront the umpire and body slam him to the ground during a physical struggle. (July 2001)
- California (Baseball) — Kenneth Williams, 32, attacked and knocked an umpire unconscious over a disputed call at a Palm Springs Youth baseball Association game involving 9- and 10-year old players.

(June 20) UPDATE: Williams served a 180 days sentence in county jail beginning 2/12/02 and received three years probation. As part of the sentence, Williams was banned from participating in any level of youth sports again.

- Australia (Rugby) — A 19 year-old female rugby referee is chased by angry parents into the dressing room following a junior (13 and under) rugby match in Brisbane. Two police squad cars are called to break up the angry crowd. (June 2001)
- Florida (Baseball) — During a 13-14-year-old division baseball game the umpire is attacked by a coach who is able to snatch the umpires facemask off his face and hit him with the mask and a water bottle. (June 2001)
- Louisiana (Softball) — A coach and player physically assault the umpire in the parking lot following an adult softball game. They were upset over a call made by the umpire during the game. (May 2001)
- South Dakota (Soccer) — A 42 year-old adult man strikes the soccer referee, who happened to also be the town's mayor, during a match between 11-year-old girls. The coach was sentenced to one year in jail (all but 45 days was suspended), required to attend anger management courses and banned from all youth sports events for a year. (May 2001)
- Pennsylvania (Ice Hockey) — During an adult ice hockey game the referee's nose is broken when a player comes off the bench and strikes the official with the butt-end of his hockey stick. (April 2001)
- California (Baseball) — During an adult (30+) baseball game the umpire is head butted twice across the bridge of his nose after ejecting a player for throwing a bat and cursing. (April 2001)
- New York (Football) — Following the conclusion of an adult football league game in Middle Village Queens, the official is "sucker punched" from behind by a player. The official suffers severe back pain, headaches and blurred vision. (March 2001)
- Canada (Hockey) — An entire crowd of 200 hockey fans are ordered out of the arena by game officials after the officials are pelted with coins and a water bottle is thrown on the ice. The game, between 12 to 14-year-olds, continues after the arena is cleared. (March 2001)
- Illinois (Volleyball) — A junior high school coach tries to take a meat cleaver into school after an argument resulting from the official forfeiting her team due to derogatory comments by a fan directed at the official. (March 2001)
- Canada (Hockey) — A minor league hockey coach in Hamilton is charged with threatening to kill a teenage referee following an outburst over a two-minute penalty. Following his ejection from the game, the 34 year-old coach went onto the ice and threatened the youth official in front of his 10- and 11-year old players and adult spectators. (March 2001)
- Pennsylvania (Wrestling) — A parent is criminally charged for biting a coach and shoving the official when he attacks the two after his seven year-old son loses a pee wee wrestling match. (February 2001)
- New York (Hockey) — While officials try to break up a fight among players on the ice following a game between rival high school teams, the parent of one of the players goes on the ice and grabs an official by the neck and wrestles with the official. (February 2001)

- Pennsylvania (Basketball) — The Catholic Diocese of Erie locks out all parents and fans from a 5th and 6th graders basketball game due to a previous incident between the two teams involving racial slurs directed at a game official. (February 2001)
- Ohio (Football) — More than 100 people rush the field and five adults are charged with assault for attacking a high school football official as the crew leaves the field following a state playoff game. The crowd became angry when the officials called back an apparent game-winning touchdown due to a holding penalty with four seconds remaining. (November 2000)
- Pennsylvania (Soccer) — Robert Lynn, a parent for a high school player from Bishop O'Reilly High School, charges on to the soccer field and shoves official Robert Eble. Nearly a year later Lynn pleads guilty in Luzerne County Courthouse. His sentence includes an anger management classes, restitution for the officials hospital visit, 12-months probation, a letter of apology and 75 hours of community service. (September 2000/October 2001)
- Ohio (Soccer) — A fan accused of threatening a referee with a gun during a high school soccer match is charged with menacing. (September 2000)
- Massachusetts (Hockey) — A parent, upset that the "pick-up" game being supervised by an adult is "too rough", confronts the adult supervisor in the hallway of the facility after the game and beats him to death in front of several children and adult on-lookers. (June 2000) **UPDATE: Thomas Junta was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to a prison term not to exceed 10 years.**
- Florida (Baseball) — A 20-year veteran umpire is attacked by the coach after he disagrees with the umpires call. The coach "sucker punches" the umpire as the umpire is walking away and breaks his jaw. (June 2000)
- Pennsylvania (Baseball) — A former police officer was convicted of soliciting assault for giving a 10-year-old Little League pitcher \$2 to hit another youngster with a fastball. (May 2000)
- Texas (Baseball) — A police sergeant and youth coach, angry after being ejected from his sons game goes home and puts on his police uniform, waits in the parking lot following the game and then issues a traffic violation ticket to the games umpire when he leaves the facility. The officer is reprimanded by the police department for lying about the incident to his superiors. (March 2000)
- North Carolina (Basketball) — Leaders of a recreational basketball league place a "lifetime ban" on the mother of a 14-year-old player in the community program after she jumps on the back of an official scratching his face and the back of his neck. (February 2000)
- Nebraska (Football) — A 38-year-old coach is sentenced to 30 days in jail for punching a 16-year old referee at halftime of a game. (October 1999)
- New York (Hockey) — A 40-year-old father is charged with assault for allegedly hitting his son's hockey coach because the coach did not play the boy in the final minutes of a youth hockey game. The parent struck the coach with a hockey stick and broke the coach's nose. (October 1999)
- Maryland (Football) — A game of 12-year-olds is forfeited after the referee is struck in the face by a player's swinging helmet when the player became upset at a penalty call. (September 1999)

- Florida (Soccer) — An upset coach attacks the game referee near a concession stand following a soccer game of 12-year-olds. The coach head butts the official and breaks his nose. (March 1999)
- Pennsylvania (Wrestling) — A parent is charged with assault against an official when he comes out of the stands and punches the referee at a youth wrestling match involving 10-year-olds. (February 1999)
- Florida (Hockey) — Justin McPolin of the Jacksonville Lizard Kings was suspended 35 games by the East Coast Hockey League for punching an official during a game with New Orleans on Nov. 20. "In my involvement in ice hockey and it's been at all levels, I haven't seen anything as bad and as flagrant as that," said New Orleans coach Ted Sator. "It even shocked our fans." Sator said the incident started when the on-ice officials tried to break up a fight involving McPolin. "Not only did he manhandle the linesman, he attempted to head-butt him and then he punched him," Sator said. (November 1998)
- Virginia (Soccer) — A "soccer mom" slaps and scratches the face of the games 15-year-old volunteer referee following a soccer game involving 9-year-olds. (October 1998)
- Wisconsin (Baseball) — A 62-year-old volunteer baseball umpire is punched in the face several times by a coach angry over a non-call in an 11- and 12-year-old level baseball game. The coach follows the umpire into the equipment room to attack him. (August 1998)
- Alabama (Baseball) — A father/son coaching duo attacked both umpires during an 11- and 12-year-old Dixie Youth League All-Star Game. The duo teamed-up to hold one official down while kicking and beating him. (December 1997)
- Indiana (Football) — Twenty-six police units respond to a riot among parents fighting at a youth football game. The incident occurs after a parent hits the referee who is marking the ball out of bounds. (October 1997)
- Virginia (Basketball) — A 17-year-old youth league basketball player is convicted of assault after he knocked a referee unconscious and incited a near-riot at a community service recreation league game. His punishment was four days of community service. (September 1996)
- Oklahoma (Baseball) — A 15-year-old tee-ball umpire, was allegedly choked and punched by a 37-year-old assistant coach of a tee-ball team for five- and six-year-olds. The umpire was treated at the hospital for bruises around his neck and a burst blood vessel in his eye. (August 1997)
- Colorado (Baseball) — A 16-year-old umpire received four stitches in his mouth and was treated for bruised ribs after he was pushed, hit and kicked by players and a coach at a 15-to-18-year-old recreational baseball tournament. The official could have been more seriously injured had he not been wearing a chest protector according to the doctor that treated him. (July 1996)
- Washington (Wrestling) — A high school wrestling official is headbutted by the losing contestant during a fit of anger that knocks out the official for more than 20 seconds. The offending wrestler pleads guilty to fourth-degree assault and gets 30 days in jail, one year probation and is ordered to perform 100 hours of community service. (February 1996)

For more examples of such incidents, contact:

H-10

Bob Still, APR,
Communication & Development Manager
National Association of Sports Officials
262-632-5448 • bstill@naso.org

H-11