

# ECYSA GAME BEHAVIOR POLICY

This Policy has been adopted by ECYSA because of an increase in physical and verbal abuse directed at referees of all ages and genders.

## Responsibilities of ALL COACHES:

- To exhibit and maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their coaching staff, their players, spectators and supporters regardless of location; field, field area or adjacent areas.
- To maintain the highest standards of conduct at the venue and adjacent areas before, during and after the game.
- To support the authority of the referee specifically with respect to calls, decisions, crowd control and personnel control.
- To use constructive language and positive support for any player on the field.
- To require their players to use constructive language and support.
- To suppress abusive or obscene language, violent play, violet conduct and any behavior that may be viewed as detrimental to the game.

## Addressing the Referee Requirement for ANYONE (includes; coaches, players, spectators) AT THE FIELD:

- DO NOT ADDRESS THE REFEREE DURING A GAME. Any attempt to undermine the referee's authority has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee and other participants, inclusive of the spectators.
- Allowable situations when one may address the referee:
  - Responding to communication initiated by the referee.
  - Coach requested player substitutions.
  - Informing the referee about emergencies, injuries or safety issues.

## COACHES may speak with the referee in a calm and polite manner:

- To ask the referee for a rule explanation prior to the game, at halftime or after the game.
  - The referee is not required to provide an answer.
  - The referee's answer is not debatable.
- If the referee's understanding differs from the coach's understanding, the coach should file an online report seeking an explanation of the rule being as concise as possible.
- Any instance of sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or criticism of a referee and the calls will be viewed as behavior detrimental to the game and will be handled through disciplinary action by ECYSA. It does not matter if the comments are directed at the referee or at other persons or players.
- The Coach may file an online referee report addressing any problems with the referee or the manner in which they handled the game. The report will be reviewed by the ECYSA board and corrective action against the referee will be taken if required.
- A coach will not "re-educate", enlighten or clarify the laws of the game with any referee.

Infractions of the ECYSA Behavior Policy by any coach, player, parent, official or spectator may result in dismissal, sanctions or other actions beyond what is stated below.

***\*The referee may go directly to dismissal when the offending action warrants that decision.***

**INITIAL MINOR INFRACTION\*:**

- By a Coach- The referee will ask the coach to stop any further action(s).
- By a Spectator – The referee will ask a coach to address any spectator to stop any further action(s).

The referee will report the infraction(s) to ECYSA in the game report.

**SECOND INFRACTION DURING THE GAME\*:**

- By the Coach – The referee will tell the coach to stop for a second time and/or state that this is a *WARNING*.

*Three (3) warnings in a season will result in the coach being suspended from the next game.* Additional disciplinary action may result pending a review by ECYSA officials.

- By the Spectator – The referee will tell the coach to address the spectator for a second time and that any other incident will result in the spectator’s dismissal from the facility or the referee’s abandonment of the game.

The referee will report any warning(s) to ECYSA in the game report.

**FINAL INFRACTION DURING A GAME WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL\***

- By the Coach – The coach(es) will be told by the referee that they are **DISMISSED**, their pass card(s) must be kept and the incident reported to ECYSA in the game report. Please refer to the rule book for details regarding additional dismissal sanctions. The coach cannot appeal a dismissal. If the coach refuses to leave the field area, the referee shall abandon the game. Additional action may be taken pending a review by ECYSA officials.
- By the Spectator – The referee will instruct the coach to dismiss the spectator from the facility. The referee will abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the area. The referee will report the abandonment and details of the incident to ECYSA. Additional action, including game forfeiture may be taken pending a review by ECYSA officials.
- The referee will report any dismissals and abandonments to ECYSA in the game report.