

Attachment Zero

SUPPORT FOR REFEREES - ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Every person responsible for a team and each and every spectator and player will respect the authority of the referee. This respect is essential to the proper play of the game, the development of our players and the retention of quality, experienced referees. Failure to respect the authority of the referees, especially by the person(s) responsible for the team, undermines the authority of the referee, sets a bad example for everyone else, especially the players, and can rapidly lead into a hostile, negative game environment where playing the game of soccer is no longer the focus of the activity. This is entirely inconsistent with the sportsmanship goals that the Northeast District is trying to promote. Therefore, the basic rule is that spectators and persons responsible for the team will not address the referee at all before, during, and after a match. The prohibitions, exceptions, the penalties for violation, and policy execution are described as follows:

A. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TEAM

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by a referee, making a substitution, or pointing out an emergency safety issue during the play of a match, the persons responsible for a team should not say anything to a referee. Nor should they do anything that conveys in any way any criticism of the referee. Coaches may ask questions before the start of play or direct questions properly through their captains, but may not approach the referee at halftime or at the end of the match. **Coaches who have concerns about a referee's officiating may express those concerns verbally or in writing to the District Referee Administrator (DRA). They may not express those concerns to the Referee.**

The Northeast District recommends that the referee deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

1. Instances of infrequent and reasonably low key dissent can be ignored.
2. The first instance of persistent dissent is to be acknowledged with a verbal warning. The second instance will result in the coach's dismissal from the field. Coaches are not to be issued a card of any kind, but a referee must clearly indicate
3. Player dissent is to be dealt with according to FIFA law.

B. SPECTATORS

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by a referee, or pointing out an emergency safety issue, spectators will not say anything to a referee. Nor will they do anything that in any way conveys criticism of the referee. The Northeast District recommends that the referee deal with infractions in the following manner:

1. Infrequent or reasonably low key dissent can be ignored.
2. At the instance of the first infraction of persistent dissent, the referee will stop the match and ask the person responsible for the team to quiet the offending spectator.
3. At the instance of the second infraction, the referee will stop the match and inform the person(s) responsible for the team that the spectator must immediately leave the match and surrounding area. Failure to comply will result in the match being abandoned. The referee will file the necessary reports and send them to the DRA, who in turn will forward them to the District VP.
4. Due to the age and experience of some officials, they may need the assistance of responsible people to help if the spectator is not affiliated with either team.

C. UNBECOMING CONDUCT

If a member or members of a team, any persons responsible for a team, or a team's spectators engage in unbecoming conduct before, during, or after a match, they will be subject to discipline by the N.E. District Discipline Committee. This discipline can include suspension of the entire team from their next scheduled match.

D. POLICY EXECUTION

Clubs are directed to post signs at all fields at places where coaches and spectators gather and can read publicizing the nature of the zero tolerance policy.

ATTACHMENT D

National Soccer Coaches Association of America Code of Ethics

(adopted by Ethics Committee, 5/24/99)

1. Soccer is the players' game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.
2. Coaches bear responsibility for teaching their players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the laws of the game and the highest levels of sportsmanship.
3. Coaches shall treat officials with respect and dignity, and shall teach their players to do the same.
4. Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to do likewise.
5. In both victory and defeat, the behavior of a coach shall model grace, dignity and composure.
6. Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the institutions they represent: clubs, schools, sponsoring organizations and sports governing bodies.
7. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the interests of soccer, including treating media with courtesy, honesty and respect.
8. Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of soccer.
9. Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in education about, and prevention and treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, both in their own lives and in the lives of their players.
10. Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of soccer.
11. Coaches shall respect the declared affiliations of all players, and shall adhere to all guidelines and regulations on recruiting established by the governing bodies having oversight of their teams and leagues.
12. Coaches shall seek to honor those who uphold the highest standards and principles of soccer and shall use appropriate protocol to oppose and eliminate all behavior that brings disrepute to the sport- violence, abuse, dishonesty, disrespect and violations of the laws of the game and rules governing competition.

ATTACHMENT E

Parents Role, Guidelines and Code of Conduct

PARENTS ROLE:

1. Provide transportation to and from all practices and games ensuring that the player is prompt not only in arriving but also their departure.
2. Stay and watch practices or games and lend the young players your support in a positive manner. Do not point out their mistake, leave that up to the coach, but dwell on their accomplishments as well as their efforts.
3. If unable to attend the practice or game, encourage the child not to talk with or leave practices or games with strangers.
4. Ensure child brings equipment to and from all soccer games and practices when appropriate.
5. Be available to kick the ball around with your child when invited to do so.
6. Avoid material rewards. Build an attitude of **“the rewards lie in the fun of being able to play”**.
7. Be a good listener. Make them feel important and let them know that they are contributing to a team effort.
8. Be positive. Never criticize. Suggest an alternate way if they are not performing correctly...”Hey that is pretty good, but why don’t you try it this way.”
9. ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO BE A CHILD.

GUIDELINES TO SOCCER PARENTHOOD:

1. In competition someone always loses. If you win, do it gracefully, not boastfully. If you lose, do not allow the child to become negative.
2. Too much competition, too soon, can slow down a child’s progress in skill development.
3. MAKE FUN AND TECHNIQUE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.
4. Your child’s coach will need all the support and help you can offer. Please, make yourself available and volunteer all the time you can spare.
5. Disagreements with the coach or officials do not belong on the public soccer field. Questions, input and positive suggestions should be voiced to the coach and/ or club in an adult atmosphere. (The youth player should not be present.)
6. The overall purpose is to enjoy the game and the opportunity to be with your child on the field of play.

OTHER GUIDELINES:

Before the game: “I Love You” “Have Fun” “Do your Best/ Good Luck”

After the game: “I Love You” “It was fun to watch you play” ”Where do you want to eat?”