



NORTH SOCCER CLUB

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

North Soccer Club has adopted and adheres to the BAYS (Boston Area Youth Soccer) Zero Tolerance Policy as well as the specific "No Tolerance" Policies of those facilities where NSC Teams may be playing indoor soccer.

The BAYS "Zero Tolerance Policy" Is copied below:

Support for Referees (Zero Tolerance Policy)

It is expected that every person responsible for a team and each and every spectator and player will support the referee. This support is essential to the proper play of the game and to the development of our players. Failure to support 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 which is entirely inconsistent with the sportsmanship goals BAYS is trying to promote. Therefore, the basic rule is that persons responsible for a team and spectators will not address the referee at all during the play of the game. This prohibition, its exceptions, and the penalties for violating it, are described below.

A. Persons Responsible for a Team

With the exceptions of responding to a communication initiated by the referee, making a substitution, or pointing out an emergency safety issue, during the play of the game the persons responsible for the team should not say anything to the referee, nor should they do anything which in any way conveys any criticism of the referee. Coaches may ask questions before the start of the game. Coaches may not approach the referee at half time or at the end of the game. Coaches who have concerns about a referee's officiating may express those concerns orally or in writing to the referee assignor and/or the BAYS Referees Representative. They may not express those concerns directly to the referee.

BAYS recommends that the referee deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

As to the first infraction, the referee should determine if the conduct involves serious misconduct under the ordinary FIFA rules. If it does, a caution (optionally showing a yellow card) or a dismissal (optionally showing a red card) should be awarded, depending on the nature of the conduct. (For example, a threat of bodily harm or an obscenity directed at the referee should result in a dismissal. A prolonged, significant outburst of dissent should result in a caution.)

On the other hand, the first instance of a short, reasonably low-keyed referee criticism by a person responsible for the team should be ignored. The second instance should result in a warning, the third in a caution, and the fourth in an ejection. In giving the warning, the referee should make clear the next instance of dissent of any sort will result in a caution. Similarly, after a caution, the referee should make clear that the next instance of dissent of any kind will result in an ejection.

B. Spectators

With the exception of responding to a communication initiated by the referee or pointing out an emergency safety issue, spectators should not say anything to the referee, nor should they do anything which in any way conveys any criticism of the referee.

BAYS recommends that the referee deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

As to the first infraction, the referee should stop the game and ask the person responsible for the team to quiet the offending spectator.

As to the second infraction, the referee should stop the game and ask the person responsible for the team to warn the spectator that the next infraction will result in the spectator leaving the game; otherwise the referee will abandon the game, and file a report with the club and BAYS. BAYS policy will be to generally impose a forfeit on the team with which the spectator is affiliated, and the referee should so inform the person responsible for that team.

As to the third infraction, the referee should instruct the person responsible for the team to direct the spectator to leave the field. If the spectator does not leave, the referee should abandon the game, and file his/her report.

The referee may need the assistance of the responsible persons from both teams if the spectator is not affiliated with either team.

Consequences of Unbecoming Conduct

If a member or members of a team, any person responsible for the team, or a team's spectators engage in unbecoming conduct before, during, or after a game, the offenders will be subject to discipline by the Sportsmanship Review Committee.

Consequences of Ejection

A. If the referee ejects a person from any game between two BAYS teams, that person will be automatically suspended from participating in the next BAYS game that his/her team actually plays. If the ejection is received during a BAYS playoff game, the person is suspended from the next BAYS playoff game. If the ejection was for violent conduct, fighting, or certain forms of serious foul play, the suspension will automatically be for two BAYS games. The ejection report and passcard (when required) shall be sent immediately to the ejection secretary; the passcard **MUST** be retained by the referee at the game in all circumstances. If a suspended person does participate in a game for which the suspension applies, the team will forfeit the game and this violation will be referred to the Sportsmanship Review Committee.

B. If a person receives a second ejection during a season, the matter will be referred to the Sportsmanship Review Committee, which may subject the offender to additional discipline.

C. If the ejection secretary considers an ejection offense to be serious, or if there are more than two ejections in a game, the ejection secretary shall refer the situation to the Sportsmanship Review Committee.

D. To have a passcard returned, you must contact the ejection secretary immediately after all games for which the suspension applies have been completed to indicate where to mail the passcards that are to be returned. The ejection secretary will not mail any passcard until notified. A person who needs his/her passcard for activities outside the BAYS league during the period of suspension from BAYS games may make arrangements with the ejection secretary to obtain the passcard, after providing the ejection secretary with an appropriate contact for the outside activity. The ejection secretary will notify that contact of the suspension in effect in the BAYS league. It is the responsibility of the person to return the passcard to the ejection secretary immediately after the outside activity.

Consequences of Fracas

If a player leaves the bench area to take part in a fracas and is ejected by the referee, he shall be subject to additional discipline, by action of the Sportsmanship Review Committee.

Failure to follow the above rules is considered a direct violation of Club Policy.

Sincerely,

NSC Board of Directors