



SWYSA "Zero" Tolerance Policy

All persons responsible for a team and all of the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential for creating a hostile environment for players, the referee, and all of the other participants and spectators. Consequently, SWYSA has adopted the following rule:

No Team official or spectator is allowed to talk to the referee during the game!

Coaches & Assistant Coaches

Exceptions:

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- Requesting clarification of a call. Only the team captain(s) are allowed to do this by the Laws of the game.
- Making substitutions
- Pointing out emergency situations

At half-time or at the end of a game:

- A coach or an assistant can ask a referee to explain a ruling in a polite and constructive way, but the referee is under no compulsion to explain any further.
- Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation will be tolerated.

Penalties per game:

1st Infraction: Caution or Send-off, depending the seriousness of the infraction

2nd Infraction: Send-off

*** In all cases, situation is subject to board review and further disciplinary action with the possibility of a longer suspension than the minimum. All warnings and/or ejections will be reported to the SWYSA Disciplinary committee and Governance Board.

Spectators:

Exceptions:

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- Pointing out emergency situations or safety issues

Penalties per game:

1st Infraction: Referee should stop the game and ask the coach or coaches to quiet the offending spectator(s)

2nd Infraction: A verbal warning. The referee should stop the game and ask the coach to warn the offending spectator that the next infraction will result in a (send-off of the team official/head coach) or the referee will abandon the game.

3rd Infraction: The referee shall send-off the team official. The referee will abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the field.

*** In all cases, situation is subject to BOD's review and further disciplinary action. All warning and/or ejections will be reported to the BOD's.

If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report and (for SWYSA games) the SWYSA may impose a forfeit for the spectator's team. For PML, OPL, WSPL, OYSA and RCL games the referee will file a report with the correct governing body.

SWYSA has the right to report violations directly to the club and or State (WSYSA) even if the referee doesn't show misconduct on their ref report. It is to the center ref's discretion on the enforcement of our policy.

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and coaches, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments.

If you have a complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the referee coordinator, and/or a league board member. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.

Let the Referees do their job. The next time the players or coaches have a mistake free game, it will be a first. Instead of complaining about the referee, become one yourself.