

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST MISCONDUCT TOWARD REFEREES

Purpose:

FLSL Referees are a valuable part of the League's soccer program. The FLSL soccer program cannot operate effectively without them. Each coach, player, and spectator shall at all times support the Referee and assistant Referees. Negative or critical comments directed to any member of the Referee crew will not be tolerated by FLSL. FLSL will move to sanction coaches, players, and spectators for their violation of this Policy.

Support of Referees – No one is to address a Referee in a negative manner immediately before, during, or after the game. It is the responsibility of **ALL** coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. A coach's responsibility for Referee support and spectator control includes the times prior to, during, and after the game at the field and surrounding areas.

Coaches' Communications with the Referee and Assistant Referees – Coaches players, and sideline spectators may NOT address any member of the Referee crew during play except for:

- ❖ Responding to a Referee-initiated communication.
- ❖ Making a request for substitutions
- ❖ Pointing out emergencies or safety issues, such as an injured player on the field.
- ❖ To request clarification of any call, provided the request is courteous and non-argumentative.

A Referee may stop the game and remind coaches of FLSL's Zero Tolerance Policy.

A Referee may show a yellow card as a caution to any coach for his/her failure to abide by this Zero-Tolerance Policy.

Any coach who continues to violate this Policy after being first shown a yellow card by a Referee, may thereafter be shown a red card by the Referee. The Referee shall simultaneously instruct the coach to leave the field.

A Referee may show a red card to a coach for any egregious action, including, but not limited to, abusive language or any implied or actual threat of physical abuse. A prior yellow card is not required. The Referee shall simultaneously instruct the coach to leave the field.

Thereafter, the ejected person must depart to a distance where he or she can no longer see or hear anything to do with the match. If the ejected person fails to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit the Referee's discretion as granted by FLSL, the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), or FIFA Rules of the Game.

Spectator Communications with the Referee and Assistant Referees – Negative or critical comments by spectators directed to any member of the Referee crew will not be tolerated.

A Referee may stop the game and request the assistance of all coaches to remind the spectators of FLSL's Zero Tolerance Policy.

A Referee may thereafter stop the game and show a yellow card to the coach as a warning that the Policy continues to be violated.

Thereafter, the Referee may instruct a coach to direct the spectators to leave the field, or the Referee may show a red card to the coach, and direct the coach to leave the field along with the offending spectators. If the ejected person and spectators fail to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

A Referee may show a red card directly to a spectator for any egregious action, including, but not limited to, abusive language or any implied or actual threat of physical abuse. A prior yellow card is not required. The referee shall simultaneously instruct the spectator to leave the field.

Thereafter, the ejected person must depart to a distance where he or she can no longer see or hear anything to do with the match. If the ejected person fails to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

Team Captain – This policy is not intended to restrict respectful communication between a team captain and a Referee. A Referee may direct his/her comments to a coach through a team captain.

Referee Notification and Send-Off Report – Should a referee eject any player, coach, or sideline spectator, and/or abandon a game, he/she shall notify the FLSL Referee Coordinator by telephone.

Notwithstanding the authority granted by FLSL to a referee to issue a yellow or red card to a spectator or coach, a referee is not required to show a card prior to instructing the spectator or coach to leave the field of play.

If a game is abandoned prior to completion, the referee shall make no determination as to the outcome of the match.

A written Referee Send-Off Report, outlining the pertinent facts of the send off and/or the abandonment of game shall be sent by the Referee to the Referee Coordinator within 24 hours. Within 24 hours thereafter, the Referee Coordinator shall provide the Send-Off Report to the Chairman of FLSL's Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee for further action.