



POWAY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

*** Humble in Victory, Gracious in Defeat ***



July 2018

Zero Tolerance Policy on Referee Abuse

Poway Youth Soccer League's (PYSL) Recreational Soccer Program endeavors to provide a supportive and encouraging environment for soccer referees, and in particular the youth referees. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse or criticism of referees is unacceptable.

All persons responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential to create a hostile environment for the players, the referee and all the other participants and spectators.

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and their spectators in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, violent conduct and other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated in any situation. 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.

A coach and/or spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with the officiating to the referee. A coach and/or spectator may not, before, during, or after a game, discuss with a referee their critique of the referee's performance, other than to thank and/or compliment the referee.

The players' conduct is bound by the FIFA Laws of the Game as adopted by PYSL and as interpreted by the referees and also by the PYSL Code of Conduct.

This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always "right" and the spectator or coach is always "wrong." Just as players make mistakes during play, referees will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to referee. Due to a shortage of referees, a referee may be officiating at a higher level game than they are comfortable with. They must receive support from coaches and spectators to continue to grow as an official.

Consequently, PYSL has adopted the following rules:

1) No one, except the players, is to address the referee during or after the game. Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions and point out emergencies or safety issues during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed.

2) Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game. No remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play. If there is a safety concern due to play on the field, team captains may calmly and respectfully discuss with the referee. No yelling at the referee, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or negative feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.

A plea of ignorance to this policy is not sufficient. Complaints or concerns may be forwarded to the VP of Recreational Soccer Program. Violators may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the PYSL Board of Directors.

There are appropriate avenues for coaches and spectators to share concerns about the quality of officiating. The VP of Recreational Soccer Program welcomes constructive comments about the referees. The PYSL Board of Directors' contact information can be found on Home Page at www.powayyouthsoccer.com.

No Respect

No Referee

No Game