



Referee Abuse Zero Tolerance Policy DYSA and DSRA have created a Zero Tolerance Policy when it comes to referee abuse. There is a severe shortage of referees across all sports. This is due, in part, to attrition rates of young referees of over 33%. These rates are driven up by the abuse referees are subjected to by coaches, players, and spectators/sidelines. In recent years some leagues have instituted policies to prevent certain behaviors, but despite that, we are still seeing increases in abuse incidents and attrition rates among referees. Beginning April 1st, DYSA will enforce a ZERO TOLERANCE policy to address inappropriate behavior and interactions towards referees. Any coach, player, parent, or spectator at the field who violates this policy towards a referee will be subject to sanctions, including suspensions and fines. Under this policy, member clubs and coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their players, coaches, parents and spectators. Parents and spectators are encouraged to cheer for their team's players and their teammates. However, at no time does their role cross over to being a referee mentor or educator, regardless of their knowledge or understanding of the game. That role belongs to the State Referee Committee who has established communication channels with member clubs and their administrators. See below for examples of the behaviors/things that this policy will address and sanction: Telling the referee: • To call the game • To keep the kids safe • To call it both ways • That they are terrible • That you are going to file a complaint • Fighting • Verbal threats There will be zero tolerance for any personal, public, or provocative remarks directed towards referees. THERE ARE NO EXCUSES. If a referee files a report after a game and it indicates any referee abuse/assault then the club will be automatically fined through DYSA. The fines will increase for repeat offenses. • 1st report of abuse - \$150 • 2nd report of abuse - \$200 • 3rd report of abuse - \$300 Reports of abuse are from Aug 1 to July 31. There will not be an appeal process through any of these fines/reports. The FDSI will evaluate all reports and will set up a meeting with either the club or the coach if needed.

Signature

Date