

# Zero Tolerance Policy

All coaches, all assistant coaches, all players, and all spectators shall support the referee before, during, and after the match. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and could create a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, assistant coaches, and all spectators, including participants in other matches. Consequently, MAYSL has adopted the following rule:

**NO ONE IS TO ABUSE THE REFEREE DURING THE MATCH!!!!**

## **Coaches/Assistant Coaches - Allowable Communications:**

### **During the match:**

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- Making substitutions
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

### **At the end of the match:**

- Asking a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and positive way
- Giving polite and friendly feedback to a referee

**ABSOLUTELY NO SARCASM, NO HARASSMENT, AND NO INTIMIDATION!!!!**

### **Penalties:**

- 1st Minor Infraction - Referee should ignore
- 2nd Minor Infraction - Referee should issue a verbal warning
- **3rd Minor Infraction - Referee should issue an ejection** (Red Card is not displayed)

## **Spectators - Allowable Exceptions:**

### **During the match:**

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

### **Penalties:**

- 1st Infraction - Referee should stop the match and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator (s).

- 2nd Infraction - Referee should stop the match, give a verbal warning to the coach, and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the match.
- **3rd Infraction - The referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee should abandon the match if the spectator does not leave the field.**

**Communications among players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Match.**

## **REFEREE SUPPORT**

**Everyone, especially coaches and assistant coaches, shall provide support to the referees at all times.**

1. Coaches are responsible for assistant coaches', players', fans', and their own behavior.
2. Any coach who does not comply with a referee's request to deal with a fan shall be issued a misconduct as deemed appropriate by the referee.
3. Anyone responsible for the verbal or physical assault of a referee prior to, during, or following a match will be subject to review by the Board of Directors.
4. Any team/town that refuses to provide the name and address of the responsible person(s) for the verbal or physical assault on a referee will be subject to review by the Board of Directors.

### **Finally:**

It is and always will be the coach's responsibility for the safety of his/her players. The coach always has the authority to stop play and remove his team from the match (either temporarily or permanently) if he/she feels conditions are unsafe. A parent (obviously) also has the authority to remove his/her child from an unsafe situation. If the situation warrants it, please do it, while also abiding by the zero tolerance policy. A coach also has recourse regarding a referees' performance via the Referee Evaluation Form or via a more formal complaint through the league