

## **Skagit Valley Soccer Referee Association (SVSRA) Referee Abuse Policy AUG 2018**

### **Applicability**

Each coach is responsible for his/her actions, the actions of his/her players, bench personnel, and spectators. Each coach, player, and spectator shall at all times support the referee and assistant referees. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority, and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, spectators, coaches, and referees alike. No one is to address the referee in a negative manner during or after the game.

### **Coaches' communications with the referee and assistant referees**

Coaches and/or bench personnel 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.

Violations of this policy during a game will have the below consequences:

- First infraction: **Ask** - Referee may stop the game and remind the coach or bench personnel of this policy.
- Second infraction: **Tell** - Caution. (***Yellow card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel***). The referee may issue a final warning that a third infraction may result in an ejection.
- Third infraction: **Dismiss** - Ejection. (***Red card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel***). The referee may instruct the coach or bench personnel 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. The Police should be called for anyone who refuses to leave the premises.

Nothing in this rule may be construed to limit the referee's discretion as granted by FIFA Laws of the Game.

### **Spectator communications with the referee and assistant referees**

Negative or critical comments directed to any member of the referee crew will not be tolerated.

- First infraction: **Ask** - Referee may stop the game and request the assistance of both coaches.
- Second infraction: **Tell** - Caution. (***Yellow card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel***). Referee may stop the game and issue a final warning that a third infraction may result in ejection of the coach in charge of the spectator(s).
- Third infraction: **Dismiss** - Ejection. (***Red card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel***). The referee may eject the responsible coach for failing to control the spectator(s). If the ejected coach and the spectator(s) fail to leave the area of the field, the referee may abandon the game. The Police should be called for anyone who refuses to leave the premises.

Nothing in this rule may be construed to limit the referee's discretion as granted by FIFA Laws of the Game.

### **Youth Referees**

Although abuse towards any referee will not be tolerated, any abuse towards a youth referee will not be tolerated. A Coach or spectator may only communicate in a positive way with a youth referee. The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with his/her team follow these guidelines relating to communication with a youth referee. A coach/spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with the officiating to the youth referee. A coach/spectator may not, before, during, or after a game, discuss with a youth referee their critique of the referee's performance, other than to thank and compliment the referee. Any concerns about the quality of officiating of a youth referee must be addressed to the appropriate Referee Assignor or SVSRA Board Member.

A youth referee has the option to abandon the match at any time if they feel threatened or intimidated by either coaches or spectators. They shall contact appropriate Assignor immediately after ensuring their own safety.

Any SVSRA Board Member or USSF-certified Adult Referee present at the game shall, if necessary, intervene if any coach, spectator, or other adult is criticizing or abusing a youth referee, verbally or otherwise and may take immediate appropriate action to include recommending the youth referee abandon the game.

**Notification**

Should a referee eject any player, coach, bench personnel or spectator, and/or abandon a game, he/she shall notify appropriate Referee Assignor in writing. A written report of the pertinent facts should be completed via SVSRA website within 24 hours. *If a game is abandoned prior to completion, the referee will make no determination as to the outcome of the match.* SVSRA will refer the matter to appropriate league administration (SkVYSA, NCYSA, RCL, NPSL, PSPL) for further action as necessary.

SVSRA will not tolerate any abuse of referees, assistant referees, or fourth officials from coaches, players, other team staff, or spectators. This policy ensures that referees and assistant referees can officiate games in a safe, non-threatening environment and will not be subjected to any critical, disparaging, or otherwise abusive remarks. SVSRA expects all clubs, coaches, and players to assist in maintaining the highest standards in sportsmanship and personal conduct.