

## **Southern Tier Travel Soccer League ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

STTSL fully endorses and supports good sportsmanship and fair play and seeks to provide a healthy learning environment for its players, coaches, referees, and fans. To that end, we have adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.

It is the responsibility of ALL coaches/players/parents to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Abusive, confrontational and obscene language, violent play/conduct, fighting, and other behavior detrimental to individuals, the game and the sport will not be tolerated. A coach's/player's/parent's responsibility for referee support and spectator control includes the times prior to, during and after the game at the field and surrounding areas.

All persons responsible for a team and all of the spectators shall support the referee at all times. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the very real potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee and all of the other participants and spectators. Escalation to violence can easily result.

Therefore:

**No one is to address the referee or make comments on or about a referee's call or non-call while present at any STTSL Soccer Game.**

### **Exceptions for Coaching Staff or Player During Match:**

1. Responding to a referee initiating communication
2. Making Substitutions
3. Pointing out emergencies or safety issues. All conversations are to be in a polite, respectful tone of voice. No sarcasm. No intimidation.

### **Exceptions for Coach or Player at Half Time or End of the game:**

1. Ask for an explanation of a call or a rule
2. Polite friendly feedback. (Polite, respectful tone of voice. No sarcasm. No intimidation.)

### **Penalties for Coaches/Players:**

Initial Minor Infraction – Verbal Warning

Major Infraction – Warning (caution) or Dismissal (ejection) depending on seriousness

Subsequent Infractions – Warning (caution) or Dismissal (ejection) depending on seriousness.

**Positive behavior will be expected to begin with coaches, who will be considered role models for players and spectators. A star patch will be awarded to one player per team who exemplifies good sportsmanship by members of the opposing team after each game.**

Exceptions for fans, spectators, others:

1. Responding to a referee initiating communication,
2. Pointing out emergencies or safety issues (Polite, respectful tone of voice. No sarcasm. No intimidation).

**Penalties for Spectators:**

Degree of severity of infraction will be determined by the referee.

1st Degree Infraction – The referee, at the next stoppage of play, will ask the coach or field representative to quiet the offender.

2nd Degree Infraction – Verbal Warning. Referee, at next stoppage of play, will ask the coach or field representative to warn offender that the next infraction will result in either removal of the offender or the referee will abandon the match.

3rd Degree Infraction - The referee at the next stoppage of play, shall instruct the coach or field representative to direct the offender to leave the field. The referee will abandon the game if the offender does not leave the field immediately.

STTSL may impose additional sanctions upon the offending individual(s) including:

1. Suspension or dismissal of coach or player from team position
2. Banishment of the offender from participation and or attendance at events
3. Banishment of offender's family from participation in or attendance at events.

***Additionally:***

The STTSL Coach, at all home games, will call all coaches, team captains, managers, & field representatives from each team and all referees to the center circle prior to the start of each game and review our zero tolerance policy. The field representative and manager from each team will review zero tolerance policy with their respective fans and supporters. Coach may, at his/her option, accompany the field representative to the sidelines for the review to spectators.

***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 game (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 referee's performance via a formal complaint through the league.