

Policy On Fair Play, Sportsmanship And Referee Abuse/Disrespect

The CSC Board has adopted this policy and procedure to assure all persons involved in Community Soccer Club soccer matches understand the manner in which the club will address such incidents, and understand that their participation in the club subjects them to the rules contained in the policy. By taking these steps, we are not trying to find ways to punish the great people involved in our soccer programs; we are simply trying to maintain the sense of fair play that has always been present in our games.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is defined as unwelcome touching, striking or the verbal threat to do so. The club will not tolerate this conduct. Any physical abuse of a referee by any coach, player or spectator, or by a referee against any coach, player or spectator, whether occurring preceding, during or following a game, will result in an immediate ban of the offending person from all future CSC games.

Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse is defined as a verbal attack of a sustained, excessive, obscene or offensive nature. It is not intended to include mere dialogue or questions by or among coaches and/or referees.

Spectators

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse directed toward a referee, any player, any coach or any other spectator, the referee will stop the match (if it is ongoing) to warn the coach and allow the coach to advise his spectator(s) of the warning and counsel the spectator(s) to cease immediately. If such incident occurs before a match, the referee will similarly warn the coach and instruct the coach to warn his spectator(s). If such incident occurs following a match, the referee will notify the club and the incident will be considered an initial incident for purposes of the offending team's next game.

A **repeat offense occurring during the same match** will be cause for stoppage of the match, at the sole discretion of the referee, and thereupon the offending spectator(s) will be required to leave the premises immediately for the remainder of that day. The referee or team must provide the name(s) of the abusive spectator(s) to the club.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same offender** during the **same season** will result in suspension of the person for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season.

A **third incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same offender** will result in the permanent suspension of that person from all club activities in perpetuity.

Referees

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse by a referee directed towards any player, coach or spectator, the coach observing the behavior shall report it to the club in writing. Forms are available by request. The league will notify the referee of the report, and caution the referee against any future similar conduct.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same referee** will result in suspension of the referee from officiating club games for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season.

Appeal

Any person against whom action has been taken according to this policy shall have the right to appeal. The appeal is to be submitted in writing to the President of the club. The CSC board shall review the person's appeal at its next scheduled meeting. Any decision rendered by the board subsequent to the review shall be final.