

# **SOUTH SHORE SOCCER LEAGUE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

Updated 3/5/2018

All persons responsible for a team (coaches on sidelines) and all the spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, coaches, the referee crew and spectators. Coaches, in cooperation with the Referees, will actively control the spectators.

The South Shore Soccer League has adopted the following rule:

**No one is to address the referee during the Game!! This includes audible comments questioning calls and /or abusive or defaming comments.**

## **Exceptions for Coaches:**

During the Game:

- Responding to a referee initiating communication
- Making Substitutions
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues
- At half time or at the end of game:

During one of these allowed exceptions a coach may ask a referee to clarify a decision in a polite and constructive way. Absolutely **NO** sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation will be tolerated.

## **Penalties:**

Minor Infractions	Referee may ignore a random occurrence. Repeated occurrence elevates infraction to Serious Infraction.
Serious Infraction	May result in a Verbal Caution or Immediate Ejection depending on the seriousness of the infraction (referee judgment). Expelled individual must leave playing field and immediate surrounding area, failure to leave may cause the referee to abandon game.
Abandon Game	Referee terminates game and referee game reports sent to League Referee Coordinator and forwarded to SSSL Executive Board, whose action may result in penalties up to forfeits to both teams and suspension of individuals from further participation in SSSL activities.

## **Exceptions for Spectators:**

During the Game:

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

## **Penalties:**

Minor Infraction	Referee may ignore a random occurrence. Repeated occurrences referee should stop the game and may ask the coach or coaches to quiet the offending spectator or spectators.
Serious Infraction	Repeated minor infractions become a serious infraction. The referee may also judge a single infraction to be serious (FIFA). A Serious Infraction may result in Warning, Ejection or Abandonment of game. Expelled individual must leave playing field and immediate surrounding area, failure to leave may cause referee to abandon game.

Abandon Game                      Referee terminates game and referee game reports sent to League Referee Coordinator and forwarded to SSSL Executive Board, whose action may result in penalties up to forfeits to both teams and suspension of individuals from further participation in SSSL activities

If the referee abandons the Game or directs a person to leave the field, the Referee shall send a USSF Referee Game Report to the League Referee Administrator who will forward the report, in it's entirety, along with his recommendation to the SSSL President and Vice President.

The SSSL Executive Board can impose penalties up to and including: suspensions, fines, forfeiture of the game, or expulsion from SSSL activities.