



## **Zero-Tolerance Policy Player and Sideline Conduct**

**Purpose** - NYSL Referees are a valuable part of the League's soccer program. Each coach, player, and spectator shall at all times support the Referee and assistant Referees. Negative or critical comments directed to any member of the Referee crew will not be tolerated by NYSL. NYSL will move to sanction coaches, players, and spectators for their violation of this Policy.

**1. Support of Referees** - No one is to address a Referee in a negative manner immediately before, during, or after the game. It is the responsibility of ALL coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. A coach's responsibility for Referee support and spectator control includes the times prior to, during, and after the game at the field and surrounding areas.

**2. Coaches' Communications** with the Referee and Assistant Referees – Coaches, players, and sideline spectators may NOT address any member of the Referee crew during play except for:

- Responding to a Referee-initiated communication.
- 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.

A Referee may stop the game and remind coaches of NYSL's Zero Tolerance Policy.

A Referee may caution a coach without showing a yellow card.

Any coach who continues to violate this Policy after being cautioned by a Referee, may be dismissed without being shown a red card by the Referee. The Referee shall simultaneously instruct the coach to leave the field.

A Referee may be dismissed for any outrageous action, including, but not limited to, abusive language or any implied or actual threat of physical abuse. No prior cautions are required. The Referee shall simultaneously instruct the coach to leave the field.

Thereafter, the dismissed person must depart to a distance where he or she can no longer see or hear anything to do with the match. If the dismissed person fails to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

Any coach who is "dismissed" or ejected from the game will receive an automatic minimum three (3) game suspension.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit the Referee's discretion as granted by NYSL, the US Club, and NorCal, or FIFA Rules of the Game.

**3. Spectator Communications** with the Referee and Assistant Referees - Negative or critical comments by spectators directed to any member of the Referee crew will not be tolerated.

A Referee may stop the game and request the assistance of all coaches to remind the spectators of NYSL's Zero Tolerance Policy.

A Referee may thereafter stop the game and caution the coach as a warning that the Policy continues to be violated.



Thereafter, the Referee may instruct a coach to direct the spectators to leave the field, or the Referee may dismiss the coach, and direct the coach to leave the field along with the offending spectators. If the ejected person and spectators fail to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

A Referee shall “dismiss” any coach and spectator due to spectator’s conduct for any outrageous action, including, but not limited to, abusive language or any implied or actual threat of physical abuse. A prior warning is not required. The referee shall simultaneously instruct the spectator 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.

Any infractions by a spectator will result in an automatic hearing with the League’s PAD and a possible suspension from attending games and/or practices.

Any coach who is “Dismissed” or ejected from the game due to a spectator’s behavior will receive an automatic minimum three (3) game suspension.

**4. Team Captain** – This policy is not intended to restrict respectful communication between a team captain and a Referee. A Referee may direct his/her comments to a coach through a team captain for U14 – U19.

**5. Referee Notification and Send-Off Report** - Should a referee eject any player, coach, or sideline spectator, and/or abandon a game, he/she shall notify the League Referee coordinator by telephone. If a game is abandoned prior to completion, the referee shall make no determination as to the outcome of the match. All sendoff forms must be submitted in accordance with the NorCal, Inter-League or League requirements.

**For REC program** a written Referee Send-Off Report outlining the pertinent facts of the sendoff and/or the abandonment of game shall be sent by the Referee to the League Referee Coordinator (LRC) within 24 hours. Within 24 hours thereafter, the Referee Coordinator shall provide the Send-Off Report to the Chairman of NYSL’s Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee for further action if required.

- For Rec the location of the sendoff report: <http://natomassoccerclub.org/sites/natomassoccerclub/downloads>

**For the COMP/Club (NorCal)** player send off or Coach dismissals will be filled out online by the referee. The Send-off Report will outline the pertinent facts of the sendoff, dismissal and/or the abandonment of game. The Referee will submit the online Send-Off Report to NorCal within 24 hours of the incident. If a parent is dismissed a written pdf format Referee Sendoff report will be sent by the Referee to the Referee Assignor (LRA) within 24 hours of incident. Within 24 hours thereafter, the Referee Assignor (LRA) will provide the Send-Off Report to the League Referee Coordinator (LRC) and Chairman of NYSL’s Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee for further action if required.

- For COMP, location of the sendoff report go to NorCal Referee Send-off Report System at <http://www.norcalreferees.com/>