

Sideline Behavior Policy: Grays Harbor Foothills Youth Soccer Association

GHFYSA has a Zero Tolerance policy when it comes to anyone exhibiting negative behavior towards referees, players and/or coaches. The purpose of this is to clearly state expected behavior on the sidelines. No person will be exempt from these expectations.

1. Players. Players will undoubtedly test the limits of acceptable behavior. Corrective action may be taken by Coaches, Referees, and Field Marshals. Spectators (friends and family) are NOT part of that process. Players will be held to an association accepted code of conduct that each club will be expected to enforce.

2. Coaches. Coaches are expected to direct their players through the game and foster positive development. Emotions will inevitably run high. Corrective action may be taken by Referees and Field Marshals. Coaches will be held to an association accepted code of conduct that each club will be expected to enforce.

3. Spectators. Spectators will be expected to refrain from negative behavior when on the property. Any spectator who engages in negative, derogatory behavior will be asked to leave the field, or property. If the obstructive person does not comply, police intervention will be requested.

4. Communication with Referees. Simply put, Referee Abuse Will Not Be Tolerated. Please remember that the referee (like the players and coaches) will make mistakes. When the referee makes a call, players and coaches must abide by the decision and continue play without incident. Spectators or Coaches who do not follow this guideline will be subject to discipline (even in the absence of the referee taking action on the field). All of our referees have passed a state licensing course. Some of our referees have decades of experience, while some referees are younger, and learning how to manage a contest. GHFYSA is intent on creating an environment which fosters the development of referees in a positive manner, without having to deal with adults yelling at them. We do not want any referees, and especially the minors, to be subject to any negative comments from the sidelines and intend to swiftly curb such behavior. Do not make yourself an example.

5. GHFYSA Field Marshall. GHFYSA will have field marshals at many games, each of whom will have the authority to eject coaches or spectators (without warning) and also stop/suspend a game in the event any objectionable behavior is observed. The Field Marshal may or may not identify themselves prior to incident, however they will identify their authority if they feel they need to act.

For clarity, violations of code of conduct will be assigned to the appropriate responsible party.

Player: Player is primarily responsible for their own behavior. Exception may be made (with review) if the player was instructed to perform the violation. Player conduct violations from sidelines may be applied to both player and coach.

Sidelines: The behavior of sidelines is the responsibility of the coach of their respective sideline. If the offending party/parties can be identified, the coach for that team should take action, if they cannot be identified, BOTH coaches will be held equally responsible.

Coach: Coach is primarily responsible for their own actions. Repeat violations will escalate sanctions to the governing club. Sanction of a team will be a LAST resort.

GHFYSA appreciates that the overwhelming majority of players, coaches and spectators engage in appropriate behavior which creates a very positive experience for everyone. That being said, GHFYSA is going to put particular emphasis on limiting, and hopefully eliminating, on field negative behavior. It is important to note. IF police intervention is EVER required, the obstructive person or persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law by the governing club, association, and state agency. Do not let the situation escalate to this level. Please feel free to contact the league at GHFoothillsYouthSA@gmail.com or any board member, with questions and concerns.