



## **NUSC 0% Tolerance for Referee Abuse**

*NUSC has created this 0% Tolerance Policy in an effort to decrease the abuse of referees. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse or negative criticism of referees is as unacceptable as verbal abuse or negative criticism of players. This policy adopts basic standard sanctions for improper conduct.*

*This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always “right”, and the spectator or coach is always “wrong”. Just as players make mistakes during play and coaches may err in strategy or methodology, referees will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to referee. Due to a persistent shortage of referees, a referee may be officiating at a higher-level game than they are comfortable with. They must receive positive support from coaches, players and spectators to continue to grow as an official.*

*A Coach, player or spectator may only communicate in a positive way with a youth referee. The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with his/her team follow these guidelines relating to communication with a referee, especially a youth referee. A coach/player/spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with the officiating to the youth referee. A coach/player/spectator may not, before, during, or after a game, discuss with a youth referee their critique of the referee’s performance, other than to thank and compliment the referee.*

If a coach, player, or spectator is harassing a referee, the referee has the right to take the following measures to cease harassment:

### **Coach/Player procedure**

1. Go to the offending team's coach and ask them to control themselves or their player.
2. Issue a Yellow Card.
3. Issue a Red Card if continued and offending party is removed from the match.
4. Post-Game Report filed

### **Parents/Spectators procedure**

1. Go to the offending team's coach and ask them to control their spectator.
2. Inform the offending teams coach to remove the spectator.
3. Post-Game Report filed.

If a problem persists after the above measures are taken, the referee may stop the game and the offending team forfeits. Additionally, the offending coach/player/spectator will be issued a one match suspension for their next scheduled competition. The NUSC Board of Directors may further sanction the offending team or individuals if it deems necessary.

*Please note, coaches, players and or parents/spectators are highly discouraged from approaching or confronting referees at halftime or after the match for any reason other than inquiring about a rule or simply to say, ‘thank you’ and/or shake hands. Any concerns or feedback regarding referees must be submitted via the NUSC-provided Post Match Summary Report here: <https://noblesvilleunited.com/policies/>*

In cases of egregious referee abuse (e.g., physical confrontation), information will immediately be forwarded to NUSC and the local authorities for investigation and discipline decisions.