

Referee Non-Abuse Policy

AYSO Region 66 Ontario/Montclair

Everyone Plays * Balanced Teams * Open Registration * Positive Coaching * Good Sportsmanship * Player Development

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Section 1 - Introduction

The primary goal of AYSO is to ensure that each experience for its volunteers is FUN, FAIR and SAFE. This policy is being implemented to eliminate referee abuse, both physical and verbal, and to discourage public dissent of a referee. This policy only applies to the discipline of adult spectators and coaches.

Section 2 – Referee Abuse Policy

It is never acceptable to verbally or physically abuse referees. This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always right and the spectator or coach is always wrong. However, there are appropriate avenues for coaches or spectators to share concerns about the quality of the officiating. The Referee Administrator welcomes constructive comments as it assists in the overall quality of training.

Section 3 – Youth Referee Abuse Policy

Youth development is the central focus of the AYSO program. This includes the positive development of all youths, whether they are players or volunteers. Only positive and encouraging comments are allowed to be directed at youth referees.

It is never acceptable to abuse or criticize youth referees, verbally, physically or emotionally. A coach or spectator should not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with the performance of a youth referee or critique their performance. Any critiquing or performance evaluations should only be done by a properly trained designated referee mentor or advisor. The appropriate avenue for which a coach or spectator to share concerns about the quality of a youth referees officiating is to report it to the Referee Administrator or Referee Mentors.

Section 4 - Procedures of Disciplinary Sanctions of Referee Abuse

1. All referee abuse and incidents will be recorded on the match game report and reported to the Referee Administrator and the Regional Commissioner within 24 hours.
2. All AYSO members (coaches, board members, other referees, and parents) shall, if necessary, intervene if a coach or spectator is verbally abusing a referee and report incident of abuse to the Regional Commissioner and Referee Administrator within 24 hours.
 - a. Handling general dissent is part of a referee's job. If the referee appears to be managing the dissent appropriately, no intervention is necessary. **However, in the case of a youth referee, dissent is not allowed. Only positive, instructive, and encouraging comments are allowed to be directed at youth referees.**
3. The Regional Commissioner and the Regional Referee Administrator, upon investigating the incident and after hearing from all parties, shall implement appropriate discipline before the next game, if possible. The offending parent or coach, Regional Coach Administrator and the Division Coordinator shall be notified of the disciplinary action.
4. The Division Coordinator shall enforce the disciplinary action by making sure the offending spectator or coach is not attending AYSO games during his or her suspension.