

# Berkshire County Youth Soccer League Zero Tolerance Policy



Because of physical and verbal abuse in the Berkshire County Youth Soccer League, the League has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents and other supporters and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior (including but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game between the above mentioned groups will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of the Coaches to provide Referee support and spectator control. This policy will apply to all times prior to, during and after the game at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.

## Parents & Spectators

### 1. Spectators

Spectators at games must remain behind the spectator control line (three yards from the sideline) and between the penalty areas (never behind the goals), and their vocal efforts should be limited to positive compliments to the participants. Under no circumstances should they attempt to coach or address remarks derogatory to players, coaches or the referee. The use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco products in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games is strictly prohibited.

- i. No parent or other spectator shall address the Referee or Assistants at any time
- ii. This includes but is not limited to:
  - a. Spectators making derogatory comments to players of either team
  - b. Disputing calls during or after the game
  - c. Remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play
  - d. Yelling at the referee, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game
- iii. The only allowable exceptions to the above are:
  - a. Responding to a referee who has initiated a conversation with a parent or spectator
  - b. Pointing out an emergency or safety issues

### iv. Penalties

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The Referee will issue a verbal warning to the offending party
- b. The Referee will stop the game and instruct the parent / spectator to leave the field
- c. The Referee will stop the game and instruct the Coaches to direct the parent / spectator to leave the field
- d. The Referee should abandon the game, if the spectator does not leave the field

## Players

### 2. Players

Communications between players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game. Penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game will be governed by the Laws themselves and Section VII. Local Playing Rules (F) of the BCYSL Bylaws.

## Coaches & Assistants

It is the responsibility of all Coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the Referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, assistant coaches and spectators. As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in BCYSL are expected to be supportive of, and to applaud the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a contest. By example, BCYSL coaches are expected to show that although we are competing in a game, we, at all times have respect for our opponent. BCYSL will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the players or coaches of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended

behavior toward opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the match official and subsequent sanctions as may be imposed by the BCYSL Executive Board after a review of the match report.

### 3. Coaches and Assistants

It is the responsibility of all Coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the Referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, assistant coaches and spectators

- i. Coaches may not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks
- ii. Coaches may not offer dissent to any call made by the officials
- iii. Coaches are not to address the Referee during the game except to:
  - a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation
  - b. Point out emergency or safety issues
  - c. Make substitutions
  - d. Ask the referee to repeat a call
  - e. Ask for the time remaining in the half
- iv. Coaches are allowed to ask a referee after a game, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a law or foul but not judgment calls made in the game
  - a. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the Referee may abandon the exchange at any time
  - b. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed

#### v. Penalties

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending Coach or Assistant Coach
  - b. The Referee may eject the offending Coach or Assistant Coach. The Coach or Assistant Coach will be required to leave the field.
  - c. The Referee should abandon the game, if the Coach or Assistant Coach does not leave the field
- vi. Any additional penalties associated with the ejection of a coach will be governed by Section VII. Local Playing Rules (F)(3) of the BCYSL Bylaws

return portion below

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## BCYSL Zero Tolerance Consent Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned have read and agree to the terms of the BCYSL Zero Tolerance Policy.

Players Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Players Name (sign): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name (sign): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name (sign): \_\_\_\_\_