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## *ECYSA GAME BEHAVIOR POLICY*

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This Policy has been adopted by ECYSA because of an increase in physical and verbal abuse directed at referees of all ages and genders.

### **Responsibilities of ALL COACHES:**

- To exhibit and maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their coaching staff, their players, spectators and supporters regardless of location, field, field area or adjacent areas.
- To maintain the highest standards of conduct at the venue and adjacent areas before, during and after the game.
- To support the authority of the referee specifically with respect to calls, decisions, crowd control and personnel control.
- To use constructive language and positive support for any player on the field.
- To require their players to use constructive language and support.
- To suppress abusive or obscene language, violent play, violent conduct and any behavior that may be viewed as detrimental to the game.

### **Addressing the Referee**

by ANYONE (including coaches, players, and spectators) AT THE FIELD:

- DO NOT ADDRESS THE REFEREE DURING A GAME. Any attempt to undermine the referee's authority has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee and other participants, inclusive of the spectators.
- Allowable situations when one may address the referee:
  - o Responding to communication initiated by the referee.
  - o Coach requested player substitutions.
  - o Informing the referee about emergencies, injuries or safety issues.

COACHES may speak with the referee in a calm and polite manner:

- To ask the referee for a rule explanation prior to the game, at halftime or after the game.
- o The referee is not required to provide an answer.
- o The referee's answer is not debatable.
- If the referee's understanding differs from the coach's understanding, the coach should file an online report seeking an explanation of the rule, being as concise as possible.
- Any instance of sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or criticism of a referee and the calls will be viewed as behavior detrimental to the game and will be handled through disciplinary action by ECYSA. It does not matter if the comments are directed at the referee or at other persons or players.
- The Coach may file an online referee report addressing any problems with the referee or the manner in which they handled the game. The report will be reviewed by the ECYSA board and corrective action against the referee will be taken if required.
- A coach will not "re-educate", enlighten or clarify the laws of the game with any referee.

INFRACTIONS of the ECYSA Behavior Policy by any coach, player, parent, official or spectator may result in cautions, dismissal, sanctions, fines, or other actions beyond what is stated below.

### **LAWS OF THE GAME 12.3 FOR TEAM OFFICIALS**

#### **TEAM OFFICIALS**

Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

#### **Warning**

The following offences should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off:

- entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official
- minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision

- occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

### **Caution (YELLOW CARD)**

Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

- clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- delaying the restart of play by their team
- deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- dissent by word or action including:
  - throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects
  - action(s) which show(s) a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. sarcastic clapping
- entering the referee review area (RRA)
- excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR 'review'
- acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)
- showing a lack of respect for the game

### **Sending-off (RED CARD)**

Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  - show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- entering the field of play to:
  - confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
  - interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official
- entering the video operation room (VOR)
- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)
- using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

The referee will report all infractions by coaches in their game report.

Additional action may be taken by ECYSA upon review.

### **Additional Fines and Sanctions to Coaches:**

Cautions (yellow cards) for coaches will be cumulative during the season. Upon a second yellow card during a season, and for each subsequent yellow card, the coach will be suspended for one subsequent game at a minimum. Suspensions will carry over to the playoffs and/or to the next season.

Organizations will be fined when their coaches receive yellow cards and red cards. No fine for first yellow card. \$100 fine for second yellow card in a season for a coach, \$300 for third yellow card in a season. \$250 fine for a red card to a coach. \$500 fine for a second red card to a coach in a season.

### **FOR SPECTATORS**

Initial Warning: The referee will ask the coaches to address any spectator to stop any further action.

The referee will report the spectator infraction in their game report to ECYSA.

Second Warning: The referee will tell the coaches to address any spectator for a second time and that any other incident will result in the spectator's dismissal from the facility or the referee's abandonment of the game.

The referee will report any warning(s) to ECYSA in the game report.

Final Action: The referee will instruct the coaches to dismiss the spectator from the facility. The referee will abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the area. The referee will report the abandonment and details of the incident to ECYSA. Additional action, including game forfeiture, may be taken pending a review by ECYSA officials.

The referee will report any dismissals and abandonments to ECYSA.

### **Penalties for Spectator Behavior**

The League will implement fines and suspensions for improper spectator behavior. The first game with improper spectator behavior will result in a warning to the team. The second game with improper spectator behavior will result in a \$250 fine to the organization, and a one game suspension of spectators at the game of that team. The third game with improper spectator behavior will result in a \$500 fine to the organization, and the suspension of spectators being able to be present at the games of that team for the remainder of the season.

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