



## **PSA's Zero Tolerance Policy Against Referee Abuse**

Recently the attitude of some of PSA's coaches, spectators, and players towards the referees has deteriorated to a dangerous point. The position of Referee (including Assistant Referees) commands your respect, whether or not you agree.

The PSA will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse or assault on a referee by a coach, player, or spectator, regardless of the circumstances. Verbal abuse includes, but not limited to; challenging the Referee's calls either during or after a match, taunting, saying anything negative towards a Referee (including foul language), showing disrespect, or "upstaging" a Referee.

A large complaint often heard is of referees missing calls. If you watch any sport – Baseball, Basketball, Football or Soccer – on any level, be it amateur or professional – yes, officials do make mistakes. This is **NOT** an excuse for a coach, player or spectator to verbally abuse a referee, nor will it ever be accepted as one.

Coaches are ultimately responsible for the conduct of their teams, including spectators on their sidelines. It is the coach's responsibility to educate their players in the game of soccer, which includes showing respect towards a referee. Arguing calls made against your team or calls not made on the other team, or blaming losses on the referee does not project that respect to your players. At no time shall a coach approach a referee to challenge a judgment call or make comment of his/her displeasure of the referee's abilities. A coach is encouraged to provide positive feedback to those referees who called a good game.

The PSA will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse or assault, or other behavior which is deemed to be inappropriate or detracts from a safe, friendly environment by a spectator, player, or coach at any BCSA sanctioned event.

The above policy is verbatim the BCSA POLICY and as an affiliate member anyone abusing a PSA referee is subject to sanction.

PSA referees for the Small Sided game have been instructed to walk away from any game where the referee is on the receiving end of abuse.

Until there is a turn-around in the conduct of our own or visiting team officials or spectators this will be PSA policy.