

NFWASA's Zero Tolerance Policy

North Fort Worth Alliance Soccer Association (NFWASA) exists to foster and advance soccer programs that promote Good Sportsmanship, Honesty, Loyalty, and Courage through organized athletic competition. Our mission is to provide a safe, clean, and exemplary atmosphere for the children and parents of the NFWASA program to enjoy the game of soccer. The Zero Tolerance policy further ensures that the playing experience meets these ideals and principles.

The zero tolerance policy consists of policies for

- Policy for Interaction with a Referee
- NFWASA Coach's Code of Conduct
- Parents Code of Conduct

You can view and download the complete policy by clicking on the attached handout or it is listed below.

NFWASA's Purpose

The purpose of the North Fort Worth Alliance Soccer Association (NFWASA) is to foster and advance soccer programs that will promote the ideas of Good Sportsmanship, Honesty, Loyalty, and Courage through organized athletic competition. Our mission is to provide a safe, clean, and exemplary atmosphere for the children and parents of the NFWASA program to enjoy the game of soccer. The Zero Tolerance policy is intended to further ensure that the playing experience is in accordance with these ideas and principles.

POLICIES REGARDING REFEREES

Effective immediately, the following referee policies will be followed by all referees at all outdoor soccer matches officiated at: the North Park Soccer Complex or any other location under the authority of NFWASA Soccer. These policies apply to all NFWASA and Northern Mid-Cities Soccer League recreational matches.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

All persons responsible for a team and spectators (coach, assistant coaches, and team managers) and all players shall support the referee team. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and potentially creates a hostile environment for the players, the referee's, and all other participants and spectators. Consequently, the following policy is effective immediately:

NO ONE IS TO ADDRESS THE REFEREE DURING THE MATCH!!!!

Exceptions During the Match:

- Responding to a referee who initiates communication
- Asking for a substitution

- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues
- At half-time or at the end of the match:
- A coach may ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way. This is not an invitation to debate!
- Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee
- Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation

Penalties:

- 1st Minor infraction - Referee shall ignore or give verbal warning
- 2nd Minor infraction - Referee shall give verbal warning/Caution
- 3rd Minor infraction - Dismissal
- 1st Serious infraction - Caution or Dismissal depending on seriousness of infraction.(Dissent = Caution; Offensive, insulting, abusive = Dismissal)

Note: It is important to remember that the seriousness of the infraction is solely the opinion of the referee responsible for the match. There is no questioning of a Caution or Dismissal at the field, to the head referee, a field marshal, or any NFWASA Board Member. The only avenue for appeal is a properly constituted Appeals and Disciplinary (A&D) hearing conducted according to the NFWASA, NMCSL, or NTSSA Playing rules or By-Laws.

SPECTATORS

Exceptions during a Match:

- Referee initiating a communication
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties

- 1st Infraction – Referee shall stop the match and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator
- 2nd Infraction – A verbal warning. Referee shall stop the match and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will result in dismissal of the coach or the referee will abandon match, resulting in a forfeit for the responsible team.
- 3rd Infraction – Referee shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee shall abandon the match if the spectator does not leave the field. (i.e., out of sight and sound), resulting in a forfeit for the responsible team.

Note: Any caution, ejection or dismissal requires a signed NTSSA Outdoor Misconduct Report detailing the incident. Include just the facts, and what was said, verbatim, especially if the language is profane, foul, or threatening. In cases where a match is abandoned by the referee, the status of the match can ONLY be determined by the proper league or Association authority.

If a NFWASA Board Member witnesses inappropriate or violent behavior by either a coach, assistant coach, team manager, spectator or player they are encouraged to inform the offender that they need to adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy or leave the premises. If the behavior continues, NFWASA board members can and should send in a report to the A&D chairman and

Referee Director for further review up to and including a suspension. This will aid the association in protecting all referees; especially our younger refs who might feel intimidated applying a reprimand to adults.

POLICIES REGARDING MEMBERS

All members of the NFWASA (coaches, parents and players) in accordance with the Association By-Laws shall support the board of directors and other members of the Association. Failure to do so undermines the position of the board, the support of the other members, the direction of the NFWASA program, and puts in jeopardy the value that these volunteers provide to the players, parents and spectators alike. Any concerns that an individual(s) has with the NFWASA program or it's members can be directed in a polite and constructive manner to any board member at the convenience of the board member, or directly to the President of the Association. In addition, any member of the Association is welcome to address the board during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, provided a minimum of 3 days notice is given in writing to the Association President. Depending on the nature of the concern, the Association and its board members have the right to delay the hearing as deemed necessary (i.e. if an additional investigation is required). Any contact with any association member (phone, e-mail, in-person, etc.) considered verbally or physically insulting, threatening or abusive will be considered for disciplinary actions through an Association A&D hearing by the A&D chairman and nominated committee. The necessary punishment shall be deemed by the decision of the A&D committee.

NFWASA Coach's Code of Conduct

The Board of NFWASA Soccer Association and the leaders of the affiliated association are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games.

We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- Before, during and after the game, lead by example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting. Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them, and you may need to be forceful and direct, from yelling at players and the referee.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game. If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report your opinion to your Commissioner. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

We stress these points - Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and parents will notice. If you're overly concerned about the results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during the game! Uphold the spirit of the game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in our community and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

I understand and will follow the NFWASA Coach's Code of Conduct and I agree to inform my parents/guardian of the NFWASA Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy

Signature _____ Date

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

Children's sports are supposed to be fun - for the children. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

Parents, fans and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about... BEING FUN FOR EVERYONE.

Preamble - The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

As a requirement to register a child to participate in any NFWASA Soccer activity, you agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support

for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.

6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
13. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
14. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
15. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
16. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team

By registering your child to participate in the NFWASA Soccer Association, you also agree that if you fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, the parent/guardian will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension