

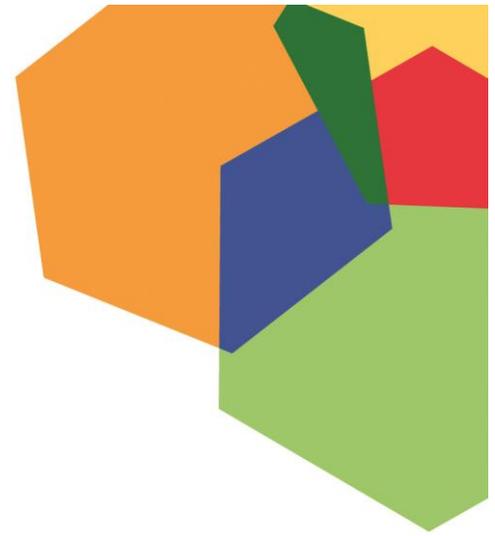


January, 27, 2018

To: All Team Officials

Fr: Jay Ruptash, EMSA Discipline Director

Re: Referee/Official Abuse



It has been brought to EMSA's attention that there seems to be an increase in the number of cases of game officials (referees) facing dissent, being verbally abused or threatened by coaches and the team's spectators.

EMSA has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to referee abuse. Verbal abuse and excessive negative criticism are unacceptable. EMSA is not implying that the referee is always right and the coach/spectator is always wrong. Just as players make mistakes during play, referees will make mistakes in officiating or make calls that you don't agree with. They are calling the game from their view point and knowledge of the rules.

As we are losing many referees due to abuse we must support and encourage them, regardless of their age so they can continue to grow as an official and to ensure we have enough referees to cover your future games. We do not want to have to start cancelling games because we do not have enough qualified officials.

As indicated in your coach handbook there is a proper procedure to follow should you have any feedback or concerns with the quality of officiating at your game.

Referee Abuse/Dissent will carry a 3-4 game suspension or the possibility of an indefinite suspension and referral to Alberta Soccer depending on the severity of abuse. As the head coach you are also responsible for the behavior of your spectators and you may serve a suspension on their behalf should there be any incidents.

Please treat the game officials with respect and courtesy as this is a very difficult job to do on the best of days. As adults we are role models for the players, we should always keep in mind how our actions and behaviours on the bench are being portrayed to these young impressionable minds. Please act with composure and professionalism at all times as we know kids act the way they see their role models act.

Jay Ruptash
EMSA Discipline Director

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