

MSA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Referee Policies:

The following referee procedures will be followed by all Midland Soccer Association referees at all outdoor soccer matches officiated at Butler Park, Windlands Park, Beal Park, Hogan Park, Reyes Mashburn and any other location under the authority of MSA.

Zero Tolerance:

All persons responsible for a team and spectators (coach, assistants, and team managers) shall support the referee team. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and potentially create a hostile environment for players, the referees, and all other participants and spectators. Consequently, the following policy is effective with the opening of the Fall Season:

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

Exceptions During the Match for Coaches/Managers of Team:

- Responding to a referee who initiates a communication.
- Making substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.
- At half-time or at the end of the match:
- A coach/manager 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 for Coaches/Managers of Team:

- **1st Minor Infraction** - Referee should ignore
(this does not mean its okay to test your 1st infraction)
- **2nd Minor Infraction** - Referee shall give a verbal warning.
- **3rd Minor Infraction** - Caution.
- **4th 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 in the opinion of the referee responsible for the match. There is no redress of a caution or dismissal at the field, to the head referee, a field marshal, or any MSA Board Member. The only avenue for appeal is a properly constituted Appeals & Disciplinary hearing conducted according to the MSA & NTSSA Playing Rules or By-Laws as appropriate.

During the Match Exceptions for Spectators:

- Referee initiating communication.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues (this can be initiated by coach/assistant or team managers).

Penalties for Spectators:

1st Infraction - Referee should stop the match and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.

2nd Infraction - A verbal warning. Referee should stop the match and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will result in dismissal or the referee will abandon the match.

3rd Infraction - Referees 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.)

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.

All cautions, ejections, and dismissals will be submitted to the Vice President by the Commissioner of Officials with 48 hours for disciplinary review.