

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the rules that governs the interactions between New Ulm United Soccer Club's spectators, coaches, board members, or any other agent acting on behalf of the New Ulm United Soccer Club.

Definitions

Abuse: A verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Included, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- using foul or abusive language
- spilling any beverage on a referee's property or verbally threatening a referee.
- Verbal threats or remarks that carry implied or direct threats of physical harm (e. g. "I'll get you later!" or "I know where you live!")

Assault: An intentional act of physical violence directed to or upon a referee, including, but not limited to:

- Hitting
- Kicking
- Punching
- Spitting at or on
- Grabbing
- Running into
- Kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury
- Damage to referee equipment or personal property, cars, equipment, etc.

Policy

All coaches, assistance coaches, players, and spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators. Consequently, NUUSC has adopted and modified the following rules:

Coaches and Assistant Coaches are to refrain from interacting with the referee crew before, during, or after the game, with the exception of the following:

- Coaches may ask questions before the game that directly involve the game,
- Coaches may participate in game-related ceremonies,
- Call for substitutions,
- Point out emergencies during the game, or
- Respond to the referee if addressed.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Players, and Spectators shall not engage in any of the following behaviors before, during, or after the game:

- Disputing calls,
- Remarks to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- Yelling at the referee,
- Criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation,
- Ask the referee for his/her name.
- Feedback of any kind during or after the game.

Consequences

ABUSE

Spectators, Coaches and Assistant coaches that commit abuse towards a referee or assistant referee may be sanctioned as follows:

Type of Abuse	Spectators	Coaches/Assistant Coaches
Verbal abuse: repetitious, criticism, or demeaning language (not including foul language)	1 game suspension	2 game suspension; season suspension
Verbal Abuse: using offensive, insulting, or foul language	2 game suspension	4 game suspension; season suspension
Stepping onto the field or other threat to the referee	6 game suspension	Season suspension

Note: All sanctions carry over to the next season the person participates for New Ulm United Soccer Club.

ASSAULT

Spectators, Coaches, and assistant coaches that commit assault towards a referee or assistant referee shall be suspended from all games, practices, and sanctioned events for a period of three years. In addition, the NUUSC will seek to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

Enforcement

All MYSA board members, New Ulm United Soccer Club board members, certified referees, referee assignors, and other persons appointed by the NUUSC board have the authority to remove any person or party from the immediate area that is in violation of this policy.

Violators are subject to further disciplinary action by the NUUSC Board of Directors or Review Committee. Disciplinary action may include suspension from one or more games.

If coaches or spectators have questions regarding particular calls, rules, or a referee, or wish to give feedback regarding a referee, please contact the New Ulm United Soccer Club Referee Assignor for the game in question.