



BACH Soccer Referee Abuse Policy

We wanted to make you all aware of a new league policy that we are implementing for the 2023 Bach summer league. Recently there have been too many incidents in Central Illinois across adult, and youth leagues involving abusive behavior towards referees. It is especially troublesome when this behavior is directed toward younger referees who are simply trying to learn their trade just as the young players are. At SASA and BACH we want to foster a relationship where the players play, the coaches coach, the referees officiate and the spectators cheer. An environment where everyone plays their specific role and respects the role of the other.

Considering all the above the changes we are making are:

- **If a coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a match all spectators from that team will be removed for that current game and potentially the next game. This will be at SASA staff discretion.**
- **If after the match SASA Staff determines that a prior match had referee abuse the spectators from that team will be removed for the next applicable game. This will include any children as we have to have a zero tolerance policy.**

Many may view this as extreme, but the situation is to the point where significant action needs to be taken. Coaching staff and other players need to be the model of what is acceptable sideline behavior. Recently there have been too many examples of coaches, parents, spectators that are crossing the line with their sideline behavior. Everyone wants competent and experienced officials, but then create an environment

where young and new referees cannot learn due to the sideline behavior and abuse,
and older experienced officials want to hang it up.

We want you all to come out and enjoy the games, and everyone should come with the intention of supporting their team, the opponent's team, AND the referee crew. There will be mistakes and missed calls. Just like players miss shots, miss passes or are not successful in trapping and receiving the ball.

No referee steps onto the field wanting to make a mistake, but no referee will ever be 100% perfect each match either. Please note that no one comes to watch you do your job then screams at you when you make a mistake or they disagree with you, so please do not do that here.

Please understand the spirit and intent behind this policy is to help us create a supportive environment for all. We need a healthy environment for everyone that is part of our league. If you do have concerns on officiating there are proper channels to address these concerns such as contacting Tyler Benton the BACH Soccer Director, or Andrew Lenhardt the SASA Executive Director.

Thanks, and good luck this Summer.

Sincerely Bach Soccer Director Tyler Benton (Player, Coach, Ref, and Spectator)

For questions or concerns please contact Tyler Benton via email at:

tbsasa1984@gmail.com