

Respect our Referees Program

Ian Chapman – State Director of Assessments

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What is the RoR Program?

- The Respect Our Referees (RoR) program is designed to reduce verbal abuse, physical abuse and inappropriate / unacceptable behavior involving soccer referees.
- It is designed to positively influence behavior around the soccer pitch.
- The goal is to provide a fair, safe and enjoyable environment for everyone involved; players, coaches, spectators and referees.

Why do we need the Program?

- Soccer continues to grow with more players participating every year – this is great news!
- NTX Soccer recruits and trains 3,000 new referees every year
- Unfortunately our attrition rate is 54% - this is really bad news!

Why do we need the Program?

- Most attrition occurs in referees aged 12-16 years
- 60% of all our referees are aged 12-16 years
- It is becoming harder to find referees to cover all of our matches
- **The #1 reason given why referees don't return is "verbal abuse" from coaches, spectators and players.**

Is the Program supported by NTX?

- Yes – 100%
- The Program was presented to the NTX Soccer Executive Board in June and was emphatically approved and supported
- The Program was rolled out at the July 2018 AGM with support from numerous Leagues and Associations
- A RoR work group will be formed to continue the momentum. The group will include stakeholders from leagues, teams and referees and will report to the Board

Double sided yellow card for new referees

NTX Respect Our Referees - COACH

When there are loud and public abusive comments from the Coach.

1. **ASK** "Sir/ ma'am please don't yell at me as it's making it hard for me to focus on the match."
2. **TELL** "Please stop your abusive behavior, or you will be dismissed."
3. **DISMISS** "You are being dismissed for irresponsible behavior and you must leave the bench area."
4. Report the incident to your Assignor/ league.

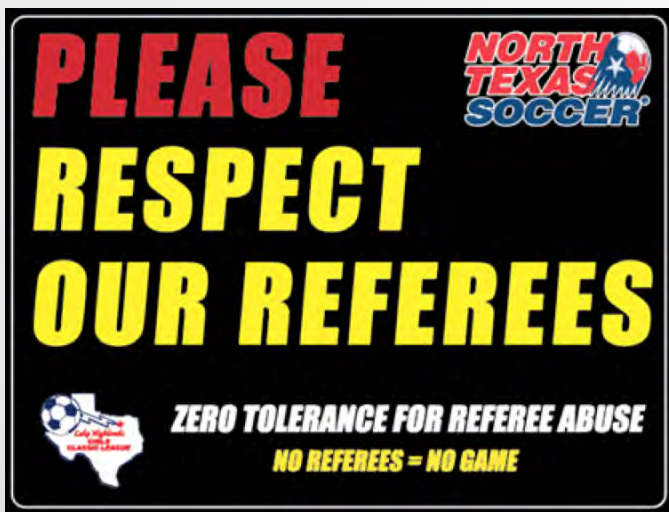
NTX Respect Our Referees - SPECTATOR

When spectator abuse is unacceptable to the Referee, speak to the Coach.

1. **ASK** "Sir/ ma'am please speak to your spectators and ask them to quiet down as their behavior is making it hard for me to referee the match."
2. **TELL** "Please stop the spectator's abusive behavior, or they will be removed."
3. **DISMISS** "Please tell your disruptive spectators that they need to leave the area. The match will not restart until they leave."
4. Report the incident to your Assignor/ league.

- Signage will be placed around soccer complexes reminding coaches and spectators to
 - "Please Respect our Referees"
- Leagues will be required to discipline coaches and spectators who are reported by referees
- Leagues will be required to report to NTX Soccer when the level of abuse is either persistent or meets or exceeds verbal abuse and misconduct in the NTX ByLaws and Rules

Sign examples





Available from local signs shops for around \$15 each

Program rollout/ 4

- Leagues will be expected to provide mentors/ league officials / Board members or adult referees at complexes where young referees are working
- "Field Marshalls" can be evolved into "Respect Marshalls" – empowered and expected to deal with referee abuse from coaches and spectators

How to measure success?

- Monitor the referee attrition rates
- Review the cases forwarded to NTX Soccer
- Solicit feedback from Leagues and Associations on the Program – how can it be improved?
- Solicit feedback from referees in various Leagues to see if things are improving

Imagine how great this would be....

- NTX / League RoR signs at every complex
- Trained and empowered young referees with a script on how to deal with abusive behavior
- Referees and coaches communicating respectfully and professionally
- Spectators and coaches signing a Respect contract / pledge at the beginning of each season
- Spectators supporting their teams and referees
- Players enjoying a safe and fun soccer experience...

Questions?

- Email Ian Chapman - State Director of Assessments
- Email address – ian5555@aol.com



Nobody wants this.....