



## WDDOA Referee Zero Tolerance Policy

WDDOA fully endorses and supports good sportsmanship and fair play. Furthermore, we are very interested in providing a healthy, learning and competitive environment for our players, referees, parents and fans. Due to the increase of abusive and intimidating behavior towards our referees and in too many cases, our youth referees, we have adopted a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**.

It is the responsibility of ALL coaches/players/parents to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Abusive, confrontational and obscene language, violent play/conduct, fighting, inciting, escalating and other behavior detrimental to individuals, the game and the sport will not be tolerated. A coach's/player's/parent's responsibility for referee support and spectator control includes the times prior to, during and after the game at the field and surrounding areas, including parking lots.

All persons responsible for a team and all of the spectators shall support the referee at all times. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the very real potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee and all of the other participants and spectators. Escalation to violence can easily result.

### **Therefore:**

**NO ONE** is to address the referee or make comments on or about a referees call or non-call while present at any WDDOA sanctioned event.

### **Exceptions for Coaching Staff or player During Match:**

- 1) Responding to a referee initiated communication
- 2) Making Substitutions
- 3) Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

*If a coach approaches a referee or steps **on to the field** to challenge a call, they may be asked to leave the game and the incident will be reviewed.*

### **Exceptions for Coaching Staff or player at Half Time or end of game:**

- 1) Asking for an explanation of a call or a rule
- 2) Providing polite & friendly feedback

### **Exceptions for fans, spectators, others:**

- 1) Responding to a referee initiated communication

ALL conversations are to be in a polite, respectful tone of voice. No sarcasm or intimidation will be tolerated.

### **Penalties:**

**Initial Minor Infraction** – Verbal Warning (one time)

**Major Infraction** – Warning (caution) or Dismissal (ejection) depending on seriousness of infraction. *Referral to WDDOA D&P committee for review.*