



LAKEVILLE SOCCER CLUB

Referee Abuse & Sideline Behavior Policy

Youth development is the central focus of Lakeville Soccer Club. This includes development of youth, whether they are soccer players or soccer referees. All parent and player Code of Conduct guidelines apply regarding action towards referees. Only positive and encouraging comments can be directed at referees, coaches, and players.

The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse, physical abuse, or negative criticism of referees is unacceptable. Spectators shall not make any comments in an effort to "help" a referee or criticize/question their decision. LSC expects our members not to engage with referees unless the referee initiates the conversation. This applies before, during, and after the game.

This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always "right", and the adult spectator or coach is always "wrong." Just as youth players will make mistakes during play, referees will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to referee. In addition, sometimes youth referees are "in over their head" because of a particularly challenging game, an assignment beyond their experience or comfort level, etc.

A plea of ignorance to this policy shall not excuse behavior that violates this policy. It should be obvious to all those involved with youth sports that referee abuse of any type is not acceptable.

Reporting Violations for Referee Abuse

If you are a witness to representatives of LSC acting in this manner, please report them to your assigned age group directors. Disciplinary actions may result on any persons who are found to have violated this policy in conjunction to our Member Code of Conduct.

BU9-U12 Technical Director - Peter Munkittrick - pmunkittrick@lakevillesoccer.org

BU13-U19 Tier 1 Technical Director - Andrés Leza - aleza@lakevillesoccer.org

BU13-U19 Tier 2 Technical Director (interim) - executive@lakevillesoccer.org

GU9-U12 Technical Director - Brie Rosga - brosga@lakevillesoccer.org

GU13-U19 Tier 1 Technical Director - Dylan Hammerschmidt - dhammerschmidt@lakevillesoccer.org

GU13-U19 Tier 2 Technical Director - Johnny LeMoine - jlemoire@lakevillesoccer.org

Disciplinary Sanctions for Referee Abuse

The LSC Board of Directors may, in its discretion, impose disciplinary sanctions on any spectator it finds to have violated this policy. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, warnings, game suspensions and, in egregious cases, suspension for the remainder of the season, suspension for multiple seasons, and a permanent ban from LSC activities. Egregious cases include repeated or multiple incidents of abuse, physical contact with a referee and/or exceptionally inappropriate behavior directed toward a referee. Although abuse of any referee will not be tolerated, abuse of a youth referee will be treated as a more serious violation of this policy.

Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies to spectators. Player conduct shall be addressed by the player's coach and TCSL/MYSA rules regarding player discipline. LSC families are expected to make spectators accompanying them to LSC games aware of this policy.