

## **Keep This Sheet For Your Records**

### **Zero Tolerance Policy**

Rochester District Youth Soccer League  
Last Updated: 2008-12-11

Because of recent and potential physical and verbal abuse in the Rochester District Youth Soccer League, the League has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents and other supporters and referees effective immediately. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior (including but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game between the above mentioned groups will not be tolerated. Ultimate responsibility for the actions of coaches, players, and spectators resides with the member clubs.

It is the **responsibility** of the **coaches** to provide referee support and spectator control. This policy will apply to all times prior to, during and after the game at the soccer pitch and its immediate surrounding areas. All players and spectators are expected to heed all directions of the coach.

#### **Parents and Spectators**

No parent or other spectator shall persistently address the referee or assistant referees at any time.

This includes but is not limited to:

1. Spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players of either team.
2. Spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
3. Spectators shall not advise the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
4. Spectators shall not yell at the referee, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, discriminatory comments or feedback of any kind before, during, or after the game.

#### **The only allowable exceptions to the above are:**

1. Spectators may respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation with a parent or spectator.
2. Spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player down on the field or observed lightning.

#### ***Penalties***

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take either of the following actions:

1. The referee will issue a verbal warning to the coach of the offending party's team.
2. The referee will stop the game and instruct the coaches to direct the parent/spectator to leave the field. If the spectator does not leave the field, the referee should abandon the game.
3. The Gates Youth Soccer League may, at the discretion of the conduct committee, enforce additional sanctions such as, but not limited to, fines and suspension.

#### **Players**

Communications between players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game. Penalties for violating the Laws of the Game will be governed by the Laws themselves and the Rules of the Rochester District Youth Soccer League. Players are expected to conduct themselves in a sporting fashion at all times and at all levels of play while representing Gates Youth Soccer. Violence and/or repeated demonstrations of conduct that are in direct violation of the laws of the game and which result in an ejection from any contest for whatever reason shall face the following consequences:

- First ejection (send off)      Review by the GYSL conduct committee. Next game suspended participation.
- Second ejection (sent off)      Review by the GYSL conduct committee. Next TWO games suspension
- Third ejection (sent off)      Review by the GYSL conduct committee. Next Year suspension
- *Ejections for assault of any player, coach, referee or spectator will result in immediate expulsion from the league.*
- The Gates Youth Soccer League may, at the discretion of the conduct committee, enforce additional sanctions such as, but not limited to, fines and suspension.

Note: Travel players, coaches and spectators are governed by the rules & regulations of the Travel League. Fines and suspensions may be different than stated here and will take precedence over this document.

#### **Appeals**

Appeals by any player, coach, assistant coach, team manager, parent, or Board of Directors member must be done in writing stating what the appeal is based upon and the circumstances to the Chairperson of the GYSL Code of Conduct Committee within two (2) business days of the incident. The GYSL Conduct Committee will then meet and render a final determination within five (5) business days.