



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

February 7th, 2023

This policy is in effect for all Abbotsford Soccer Association (ASA) game/match events and is specific to ASA members.

Pursuant to the British Columbia Universal Code of Conduct ([here](#))

Pursuant to the International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game, Law 5 | The Referee | Section 3. Powers and duties ([here](#))

Section 1. Purpose

1. a) The aim of this policy is to prevent outside interference, including but not limited to the harassment/maltreatment of match officials that involves team staff members and/or spectators in all ASA soccer events/matches. ASA wants to promote an environment that is conducive to the development and retention of referees, players, and coaches.
2. b) This policy does not imply that a referee is without fault or error. We acknowledge that mistakes are a natural part of the game for players, coaches and referees. Everyone engaged with ASA must be focused on creating a safe environment for the youth players, referees and coaches in Abbotsford, the Fraser Valley District and beyond.

Section 2. Harassment/Maltreatment of Officials

- a) The harassment/maltreatment of an official may be defined by but is not limited to acts that:
 - i. Cause fear, humiliation, or annoyance
 - ii. Offend or degrade
 - iii. Are pejorative or demeaning
 - iv. Are verbally threatening
 - v. Infer physical harm
 - vi. Repeatedly announcing your disagreement with a call or lack thereof

Section 3. Removal

- a) Spectators in violation of Section 2 of this policy may be required to leave the game/match venue, in order for a game to proceed. Any removed spectators responsible for the transportation of a youth player involved with the game/match shall wait in their vehicle (or away from the pitch area) until the conclusion of the player's game.
- b) Prior to removal, match officials may decide to issue a warning to the head coach who is coaching the team of the offending spectator(s).
- c) Team staff members in violation of Section 2 of this policy may be required to leave the game/match venue, in order for a game to proceed. Any removed coach/team staff member responsible for the



transportation of a youth player involved with the game/match shall wait in their vehicle (or away from the pitch area) until the conclusion of the player's game.

Section 4. Enforcement

- a) Upon a game official acknowledging harassment/maltreatment by a **spectator** as outlined in Section 2, the process to remove the offending spectator will be as follows:
 1. The referee will stop the game and ask the coach of the respective team to remove the spectator before play can resume.
 2. If the coach refuses to ask the spectator to leave, the game will be abandoned immediately.
 3. If the spectator refuses to comply with the provisions outlined in Section 3, the game will be abandoned immediately.
 4. Match Officials will not directly address any spectator.
- b) Upon a game official acknowledging harassment/maltreatment by a **team staff member** as outlined in Section 2, the process to remove the offending team staff member will be as follows:
 1. The referee will stop the game and ask the head coach of the respective team to remove the offending team official before play can resume.
 2. If the head coach refuses to ask the team staff member to leave, or the team staff member refuses to leave the game/match venue, the game will be abandoned immediately.
 3. If the team head coach is the identified offender, they will be asked to leave the game/match venue. If they refuse to leave, the game will be abandoned immediately.

Section 5. Reporting

- a) Depending on the age of the referee, reports of an incident submitted by the match official may be escalated to outside authorities.
 1. All Referee reports (for games in Abbotsford) are received by the ASA Head Referee and where applicable the BC Coastal Soccer League and/or BC Soccer.
 2. **MINOR (19 or under): Reports of harassment/maltreatment may be submitted to the local police and/or the Child, Family & Community Services, who has jurisdiction over claims of suspected abuse and other misconduct involving minors. ([Pamphlet](#))**



Section 6. Disciplinary Actions

- a) The following internal suspensions and fines will be issued to the offending **spectator**, following receipt and review of the referee's report:
1. First offense: Banned from ASA match/game events until the completion of the Respect in Sport-Parents awareness course, and a fine of up to \$100.00.
 2. Second offense: \$250.00 fine and a 10-week ban.
Individuals are suspended from all ASA match events until the appropriate suspension and fine has been completed.
 3. Third offense: Lifetime ban from ASA.
- b) The following internal suspensions and fines will be issued to the offending **coach/team official**, following receipt and review of the referee's report:
1. First offense: Loss of registration credit/rebate, if applicable (player fee due).
 2. Second offense: Removal from position.

Section 7. Appeals

Any appeal, based on jurisdiction, will be subject to the [ASA Dispute Resolution & Appeals Policy 2022](#) or the [BC Soccer Discipline Complaints and Appeals Policy \(Nov 2022\)](#)