

USYSA Workshop

Referee Abuse



Referee Abuse

How to identify abuse

How to address abuse



Referee Abuse

Why do we care?

- Undermines authority
- Reduces game flow
- Reduces enjoyment for players and spectators
- Can escalate or spread if not dealt with

Leads to an unstable environment for the game!



Referee Abuse

First step is identifying it:

Personal insults

If you wouldn't say it to your grandmother, then it's probably rude or insulting and doesn't have a place in the game

Referee Abuse

First step is identifying it:

Public

If the action publicly questions you, insults you or calls attention to you, then there is no place for it in the game

Referee Abuse

First step is identifying it:

Provocative

If anyone on the field should be shocked by what someone just said or did, then there is no place for it in the game



Referee Abuse

Anything more than an honest and brief reaction
must be addressed



Referee Abuse

Persistent

Repeated commentary on, or reactions to, referee decisions

Referee Abuse

Public

Personal

Provocative

Persistent



Referee Abuse

Recalibrate expectations

- Proper workplace expectations

Change Our Culture!



Referee Abuse

Questions about identifying abuse?

Referee Abuse

Addressing Abuse

Referee Abuse

Personal Traits

Be calm

Be respectful

Be courteous

Be firm

Referee Abuse

Method

Explain the problem

Outline the repercussions

Make it clear, make it their decision

Always check for understanding and say thank you

“Do you understand?” - “Thank you.”

Don't add more emotion to the situation!

Referee Abuse

Write this down:

Step 1

“Coach, your behavior right now is irresponsible. Please stop.”

Referee Abuse

Write this down:

Step 2

“Coach, your behavior right now is irresponsible.
If it continues, you will be dismissed from this match.
Do you understand?”

Referee Abuse

Never say more than that. Ever.

Referee Abuse

Spectators

Spectators can be guilty of abuse as well

Their behavior can influence the behavior of people on the field of play

Must deal with spectator abuse as well

Referee Abuse

Method

Never address or acknowledge spectators

Only address the coach when dealing with spectators

Use the same approach

DON'T TALK TO SPECTATORS!!!

Referee Abuse

Assistant Referees

Do not talk to spectators

If verbal abuse begins, raise the flag at the next stoppage, call the referee over, and ask the referee to address the behavior utilizing the same approach

If the abuse continues, repeat



Referee Abuse

Referees

Support your assistant referees! Deal with it for them!

MTSRC Proposed Policy

Referee Abuse

Use the only true leverage you have:

Don't continue the match until the behavior stops.

Stop the match if it continues.

Referee Abuse

Questions?