

HUSA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Referee Policies:

The following referee procedures will be followed by *all* Hurst United Soccer Association referees at all outdoor soccer matches officiated at the Hurst Athletic Complex and Hurst Community Park or any other location under the authority of HUSA.

Zero Tolerance:

All persons responsible for a team and spectators (coach, assistants, and team managers) shall support the referee team. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and potentially create a hostile environment for players, the referees, and all other participants and spectators. Consequently, the following policy is in effect:

No one is to address the referee during the match!!!

Exceptions: *For Persons Responsible for team (Coaches/Managers)*

During the match:

- Responding to a referee who initiates a communication
- Making Substitutions
- Pointing out **emergencies or safety issues**

At half-time or at the end of a match:

- A **coach/manager** may ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way. This is not an invitation to debate.
- Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee.
- Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation will be tolerated.

Penalties:

- 1st Serious Infraction – Caution or Dismissal depending on seriousness of infraction (Dissent = Caution; Offensive, insulting, abusive = Dismissal)
- 2nd Minor Infraction – A verbal warning will be issued.
- 3rd Minor Infraction – Dismissal of spectator and coach.

Note: it is important to remember that the seriousness of the infraction is solely in the opinion of the referee responsible for the match. There **is no redress** of a caution or Dismissal at the field to the head referee, a field marshal, or any HUSA Board Member. The only avenue for appeal is a properly constituted Appeals & Disciplinary hearing conducted according to the HUSA or NMCSL Playing Rules or By-Laws as appropriate.

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Exceptions: *For Spectators*

During the match:

- Referee initiates a communication
- Pointing out **emergencies or safety issues** (again, should be initiated by coach/assistant or team managers)

Penalties: *For Spectators*

- 1st Infraction – Referee, field marshal, or HUSA board member has the authority to stop the match and ask the Coach to quiet the offending spectator.
- 2nd Infraction – Referee, field marshal, or HUSA board member shall instruct the Coach and the spectator to leave the field. The referee shall abandon the match if either does not leave the field (i.e. out of sight and sound).

Note: Any caution, ejection, or dismissal requires a signed NTSSA Outdoor Misconduct Report detailing the incident. Include just the facts and what was said verbatim, especially if the language is profane, foul, or threatening. In cases where a match is abandoned by the referee, the status of the match can ONLY be determined by the proper League or Association authority.

All cautions, ejections, and dismissals will be submitted to the HUSA Vice President by the Commissioner of Officials within 48 hours for disciplinary review.

Authority of Hurst United Soccer Association

Your signature below states that you have read the HUSA Zero Tolerance Policy and will agree to the rules therein:

Name Printed

Age Division/Team Name

Signature

Date