

# BYSA Zero Abuse Policy (ZAP)

**Referee:** For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a Referee shall include the Center referee CR, Assistant referee AR, the club's / team's line persons and any official, coach, parent, or player.

- (1) **Referee abuse** will be defined as such: Any player, coach, manager, BYSA official, or parent who threatens a Referee through a physical act or verbal statement, either explicitly or implicitly.
- (2) **Abuse of a Referee** shall include but is not limited to verbal and nonverbal communication which contains foul or abusive language and which implies or directly threatens physical harm, spewing a beverage on or spitting at a referee or the referee's personal property. Abuse includes:
  - Foul or abusive, verbal or nonverbal communication
  - Threatening bodily harm or the attempting of bodily harm
  - Kicking or the attempt to kick
  - Choking
  - Grabbing or the attempt to grab
  - The attempt to make any bodily contact of a referee
  - Throwing of an object or the attempting to throw an object
  - Pushing or laying of hands upon a referee
- (3) **Disciplinary Action:** The offending party shall be required to appear before the BYSA Board of Directors' Games Conduct Committee within 48 hours of the act (or as soon as practicable). A review of said offense will be conducted at which time a determination will be made as to any disciplinary action to be taken. Such Disciplinary action can include a suspension or expulsion from BYSA. If the act is determined to be a violation of the Zero Abuse Policy the Games Conduct Committee will explain to the offending party the seriousness of the offense as well as make clear the ramifications of a second violation of the ZAP (refer to #7 below).
- (4) **Abuse Suspension** shall be at the discretion of the Games Conduct Committee. Suspension shall commence as soon as practicable after the Games Conduct Committee determines that suspension is warranted. The suspension will be defined as the inability to **participate in or attend any BYSA activities**, for example any match/game, any team's practices, any BYSA event and any training session, until such suspension is fully completed. There will be no refund of registration fees in regard to any suspension. The suspension period shall be consecutive regardless of seasonal play.
- (5) **A match** shall mean any official match (game) of that individual's or their child's team in BYSA recreational league and Northern Counties Soccer Association league play. Examples of matches: regular season, all star, any type of playoff, championship, officially sanctioned tournament and NCSA select team or tournaments matches or any ODP team matches.
- (6) **A written** copy of such Referee Abuse will be filed with BYSA and in the case of physical abuse of a Referee under the age of 18 years old, the Bayonne Police or the local authorities at the place of occurrence.
- (7) **A second violation of this policy will result in the individual's family termination from BYSA for life.**

BYSA Board of Directors