

POSL Zero Tolerance: No harassment of the Referees. Period.

POSL has adopted a zero tolerance policy that prohibits unsportsmanlike treatment of the referees. POSL sees two main issues:

1. First and foremost, most of our referees are young kids in middle school and high school. Being a referee can be very intimidating. Overzealous coaches, parents and players have on many occasions led to young Perryville referees quitting, never to ref again.
2. Second, in Perryville **we prioritize good sportsmanship**. In our view **yelling at a referee is not good sportsmanship**. We encourage our coaches and through them, our kids, to worry about what they can control – their own play. Soccer is a game of mistakes. Referees are no exception. They can only call what they see. And what they see is subject to their knowledge, position during the play, and interpretation of the rules.

Anyone who violates the zero tolerance rule will be disciplined up to and including, in the case of coaches, the possibility of dismissal from the league.

Zero Tolerance Rule, in summary:

All individuals responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators.

1. **ABSOLUTELY no disputing calls during or after the game. NO YELLING at the referee, EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game.**
2. **Violators may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the POSL Soccer Board.**
3. **If coaches or spectators have questions regarding particular calls, rules, or a referee, or wish to give feedback regarding a referee, contact the referee coordinator (information can be found on our website).**

Remember! These are our children and our neighbors, and we must be responsible, example-setting adults in this youth sport setting at all times. It is far too easy to get "caught up in the moment" during a game. Remember that we do this for the kids! Please do your part to make POSL soccer a safe and positive experience for our young participants. Seek assistance from your respective POSL Division Coordinator, The Referee Coordinator, or POSL President as needed during the season.

POSL will deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

1. Written Warning
2. One game suspension
3. Season Suspension
4. Suspension from the league as a coach

Coach Signature

Date