



LAS CRUCES YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY – Page 1

LCYS seeks to provide all players, coaches, spectators and officials with the best positive experience possible and to provide participants with an experience that fosters their growth and development as players with a strong sense of competition and sportsmanship. Therefore, LCYS expects all players, coaches, spectators and officials to always display good sportsmanship. To this end, LCYS has a Zero Tolerance Policy for any behavior that creates or promotes a hostile, threatening, insulting, intimidating, degrading or otherwise negative environment for any participant at any LCYS event or any event where a LCYS team is participating.

Coaches are expected to foster an environment where players are encouraged to engage in high level competition in a fair, positive and sportsmanlike manner that is consistent with the rules of the game. This includes coaches setting an example of sportsmanlike behavior for players by not engaging in or condoning any unsportsmanlike behavior. **As the leader of the team, coaches are responsible for making sure that players, coaches and supporters are aware of and adhere to the LCYS Zero Tolerance Policy.**

Players are expected to compete strongly while displaying good sportsmanship including always showing respect for all players, coaches, officials and spectators. Derogatory, insulting, intimidating, threatening or otherwise negative comments or actions directed at any player, official, coach or spectator are not allowed. Violation of the LCYS Zero Tolerance policy by players may be subject to penalties in addition to those imposed for violation of the laws of the game.

Spectators are encouraged to support strong competitive play for all participants by displaying good sportsmanship toward all players, coaches, officials and other spectators. Spectators are not allowed to engage in any behavior, verbal or physical, that directly or indirectly demeans, insults, threatens, intimidates or otherwise negatively affects any player, coach, official or other spectator.

Officials are expected to behave in a professional manner that promotes fair play and strong competition in a positive sportsmanlike atmosphere for all participants involved.

Registered coaches, assistant coaches and team captains are the only individuals who may address an official during a match. The only exception shall be for drawing the attention of an official to an emergency or safety issue.

Appropriate times and reasons for addressing an official include:

- Responding to communication initiated by a referee
- Requesting substitutions
- Informing the referee of an emergency or safety issue
- A coach may ask in a calm manner for a referee to explain the infraction or law of the game.



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Enforcement:

For referee enforced infractions during a game:

1st infraction: The referee shall stop the game to remind the coach of the LCYS Zero Tolerance Policy. The coach is expected to be responsible for his behavior as well as that of his assistant coaches, players and spectators.

2nd infraction: The referee shall stop the game to have the coach inform the spectator, assistant coach, player or other individual that if there is a subsequent infraction, the violator shall be ejected, or the referee shall abandon the game.

3rd infraction: The referee shall stop the game to have the coach inform the violator to leave the vicinity of the field. If the violator does not leave the game, the referee shall abandon the game.

If the referee is forced to abandon the game, LCYS shall determine the outcome of the match. LCYS may impose a forfeit on the team that caused the match to be abandoned. The referee shall submit a report detailing the reasons for abandoning the match to LCYS.

If the infraction is severe enough, the referee may at their discretion skip the warning and caution steps and move straight to removal of spectators, players, or coaches and/or abandonment of the game.

For instances not enforced by a referee during a game:

LCYS may, at its discretion, review any perceived violation of the LCYS Zero Tolerance Policy occurring at any LCYS event or any event where a LCYS team is participating. If such review finds that a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy did occur, LCYS may impose a penalty ranging from a warning to suspension from LCYS participation for a term that LCYS deems appropriate for the violation in question.

Coaches, assistant coaches and spectators are encouraged to complete Referee Evaluation forms (which are available at the LCYS office and on our website) and submit comments regarding perceived violations of the LCYS Zero Tolerance Policy in writing to the LCYS office via email to office@highnoonsoccer.org.