



Zero Tolerance Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Greater Lewisville Area Soccer Association (GLASA) is to foster and advance soccer programs that promote the ideals of Good Sportsmanship, Honesty, Loyalty, and Courage through athletic competition. GLASA's mission is to provide a safe, clean, and wholesome environment for the children and parents of GLASA to enjoy the game of soccer. The Zero Tolerance Policy is intended to further ensure that the playing experience is in accordance with these ideals and principles.

Coaches

All members of GLASA (parents and players) shall support the volunteer coaches. Failure to do so undermines the position of the coach, the support of other members, the direction of GLASA, and jeopardizes the value that volunteers provide to players, parents, and spectators.

Any concern that an individual has with a coach or assistant coach can be directed in a **polite and constructive manner** to a board member at the convenience of the board member or directly to the President of the Association.

In addition, any member of GLASA is welcome to address the board during a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, provided a minimum of three (3) days notice is given in writing to the Association President. Depending on the nature of the concern, the association and its board members have the right to delay the hearing as deemed necessary; for example if an investigation is required.

Any contact with a coach or assistant coach, on or off the field of play, by phone, email, in person, etc, considered verbally or physically abusive, insulting, or threatening will be considered for disciplinary action through an A&D hearing lead by the A&D Chairman and committee. The necessary disciplinary action shall be determined by the A&D committee.

Referees

All persons, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, spectators, and players shall support the referee team. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and potentially creates a hostile environment for the players, the referees and all other participants and spectators.

Any concern that an individual has with a referee or referee team can be directed in a **polite and constructive manner** to a board member at the convenience of the board member, directly to the Director of Referees or the President of the Association.

In addition, any member of GLASA is welcome to address the board during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, provided a minimum of three (3) days notice is given in writing to the Association President. Depending on the nature of the concern, the association and its board members have the right to delay the hearing as deemed necessary; for example if an investigation is required.

Any contact with any referee, on or off the field of play, by phone, email, in person, etc, considered verbally or physically abusive, insulting, or threatening will be considered for disciplinary action through an A&D hearing lead by the A&D Chairman their committee. The necessary disciplinary action shall be determined by the A&D committee.



Zero Tolerance Policy

Communication with Referees

The following policy, exceptions and penalty procedures apply to all outdoor recreational and competitive soccer matches officiated at any location under the authority of GLASA or North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA). This policy applies to home and away games.

Policy

No one is to address the referees during the match.

Exceptions for Coaches

- During the Match
 - Responding to a referee who **initiates** communication
 - Asking for a substitution
 - Pointing out emergencies or safety issues
- At Half-time or end of Match
 - A coach may ask a referee to explain a rule or ruling in a **polite and constructive manner. This is not an invitation to debate!**
 - Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee
 - Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation

Penalties

The Referee or referee team shall have full authority to enforce the following penalties for noncompliance with the communication policy:

- 1st Minor Infraction: Referee shall give a verbal warning
- 2nd Minor Infraction: Caution with Misconduct report written and submitted to A&D
- 3rd Minor Infraction: Ejection with Misconduct report written and submitted to A&D
- 1st Serious Infraction: Caution for Dissent, Ejection for offensive, insulting, or abusive behavior with Misconduct report written and submitted to A&D

Exceptions for Spectators

- During a Match
 - Referee initiates communication
 - Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties

The Referee or referee team shall have full authority to enforce the following penalties for noncompliance with the communication policy:

- 1st Infraction: Referee shall stop the match and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.
- 2nd Infraction: Verbal warning. Referee shall stop the match and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will result in the spectator's ejection as well as the coach's ejection. A misconduct report will be written and submitted to A&D.
- 3rd Infraction: Referee shall eject the coach and the spectator. Should the coach and/or spectator fail to comply with the ejection, the Referee shall abandon the match resulting in a forfeit for the responsible team. The coach and/or the spectator shall be out of sight and sound. A misconduct report will be written and submitted to the A&D.



Zero Tolerance Policy

Note: It is important to remember that the seriousness of the infraction is solely the opinion of the referee responsible for the match. There is no questioning of a Caution or Send Off at the field, to the center referee, Field Marshall, or GLASA Board Member. The only avenue for appeal is a properly constituted A&D Hearing conducted according to GLASA or NTSSA Playing Rules or Bylaws.

Note to Referees

Any caution or send off requires a signed NTSSA Outdoor Misconduct Report detailing the incident. Include just the facts: 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.

Note to Board Members

If a GLASA Board Member witnesses inappropriate or violent behavior by a coach, assistant coach, team manager, spectator, player, or referee, they are encouraged to inform the offender that they need to adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy or leave the premises. If the behavior continues, the GLASA Board Member should send a report to the A&D Chair and Director of Referees for further review. This will aid the association in protecting all referees, especially our younger referees who might feel intimidated applying reprimands to adults.

GLASA Zero Tolerance Policy is effective August 1, 2007.