

The following is an excerpt from the **Middlesex Youth Soccer Coaches Handbook**.

-----

## **21. Coach and Fan Conduct (Zero Tolerance Policy)**

a) It is the responsibility of ALL coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and spectators (supporters) in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, harassment, intimidation/ taunting, racial or ethnic slurs and other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. A coach's responsibility for referee support and spectator control includes the times prior to, during and after the game at the field and surrounding areas. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all other participants and spectators.

b) Therefore, the basic policy is that persons responsible for a team and spectators will not address the referee at all during the play of the game.

- Exceptions for persons responsible for a team (Coaches and Assistant Coaches)  
During the game:
  - Responding to a referee initiating communication
  - Making Substitutions
  - Pointing out emergencies or safety issues
  
- Exceptions for Spectators:  
During the game:
  - Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

MYSL recommends that the referee deal with coach(es) and spectator(s) infractions in accordance with FIFA Law 5 of the Game.

If the referee abandons the match, directs a person to leave the area, or issues a caution; the referee shall send a misconduct report for review – see MYSL Rule 29. MYSL asks that the information provided by the referee in the misconduct report be sufficient and detailed to determine follow-up actions required by the Commissioners, Age Directors and/or Sportsmanship Committee.