

Zero Tolerance Policy
Adopted by the HNSL Board of Directors on 8 September 2004

All individuals responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so can undermine the referee's authority and create a hostile environment for players, coaches, referees, and spectators. Therefore, High Noon Soccer League has adopted the following rule:

No one is to address the referees during the game.

A. Individuals responsible for a team (coach and assistant coaches)

Exceptions:

During the game:

- Responding to communication initiated by a referee
- Requesting substitutions
- Informing a referee of an emergency situation or safety issue

At halftime or at the conclusion of a game:

A coach or assistant coach can ask in a polite manner for a referee to explain an application of a law of the game.

Enforcement:

1st infraction:

The referee shall stop the game to remind the coach or assistant coach of HNSL's Zero Tolerance Policy.

2nd infraction:

The referee shall stop the game to issue a caution to the coach or assistant and show the Yellow Card.

3rd infraction:

The referee shall stop the game to issue an ejection to the coach or assistant and show the Red Card. The referee shall instruct the coach or assistant to leave the vicinity of the field. Vicinity of the field is understood to mean out of sight and sound of the match. If the coach or assistant coach fails to leave the vicinity of the field, the referee shall abandon the game.

B. Spectators

Exceptions:

During the game:

- When the referee initiates communication
- Informing a referee of an emergency situation or safety issue

Enforcement:

1st infraction:

The referee shall stop the game to have the coach remind the spectator of HNSL's Zero Tolerance Policy.

2nd infraction:

The referee shall stop the game to have the coach inform the spectator that if there is a subsequent infraction, the spectator shall be ejected or the referee shall abandon the game.

3rd infraction:

The referee shall stop the game to have the coach inform the spectator to leave the vicinity of the field. If the spectator does not leave the game, the referee shall abandon the game.

Additionally:

Coaches, team captains, and a parent representative from each team shall meet before the game to review the HNSL Zero Tolerance Policy. The parent representative shall review the HNSL Zero Tolerance Policy with their respective spectators.

If the referee is forced to abandon the game, HNSL shall determine the outcome of the match. HNSL 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 HNSL.

Coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators are encouraged to complete Referee Evaluation forms, which are available at the HNSL office and on our website.