

## WANTAGH/SEAFORD PAL SOCCER

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# Zero Tolerance Policy

The Wantagh/Seaford PAL Soccer Program has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy to prevent verbal abuse and potential physical abuse directed towards any player, referee, official, or coach during all scheduled games, practices, scrimmages, etc. This policy applies to all coaches, players, parents, spectators and other supporters and is effective immediately.

Abusive and obscene language, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior (including, but not limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. The ultimate responsibility for the actions of players, parents, and any other spectators resides with the coaches on the sideline. It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control, and it is the responsibility of the W/S PAL Referee and Group Coordinators to provide instructions to their coaches on how to implement sportsmanlike and appropriate behavior.

**This policy applies before, during and after the sanctioned event at the soccer field and its immediate surrounding areas.**

**Remember; the referee does not have to show a yellow card before showing a red card.**

### Parents & Spectators

No parent or spectator shall persistently address the referee at any time.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
- b. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- c. Parents and spectators shall never yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.
- d. Parents and spectators shall never enter the field of play unless specifically directed to do so by the game official(s).

Additionally, parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players, spectators or coaches of either team.

### Players

The conduct of the players is governed by the Laws of the Game as stated by FIFA and USSF. The Laws themselves describe penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game. Additional penalties for players who engage in misconduct may be established by W/S PAL Soccer.

## **Coaches & Assistant Coaches**

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and supporters in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and parents/spectators.

As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in the Wantagh-Seaford PAL Soccer Program are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a game. By example, coaches and assistant coaches are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, they have respect for their opponent, referees and spectators at all times.

W/S PAL will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.**

**Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:**

- a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.**
- b. Point out emergency or safety issues.**
- c. Make substitutions.**

**Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.**

**NOTE: It is STRONGLY recommended that coaches or other team members do not engage in any conversation with the referee(s) once the game has concluded.**

## **Penalties (Coaches or Assistant Coaches)**

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending coach or assistant coach.
- b. The referee may eject the offending coach or assistant coach. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.
- c. The referee should abandon the game, if the coach or assistant coach does not leave the field or any immediate adjoining area after having been instructed to do so.

Upon conclusion of the game and the filing of the incident report by the referee the W/S PAL Referee Coordinator, Grade Coordinator, Board Members, and/or PO Director shall determine the appropriate additional penalties levied against the coach, assistant coach, or parent/spectator which can include, but may not be limited to, a forfeiture of the game, suspension of one or more games, a suspension of the remainder of the season, or expulsion from the league.