

Zero tolerance policy

The 2008 soccer season saw several instances of “touchline misconduct” violations toward game officials both volunteer and certified. The purpose of this correspondence is to provide clarification of not only touchline misconduct, but coaching/sideline conduct regulations and to describe the Wenatchee Valley Youth Soccer Association’s (WVYSA) position, WSC position & the States position regarding such violations. These are a brief description for more information/clarification check out our website for a full description of these rules or go to www.wsysa.com . Please note that once you appoint a volunteer to referee, that person has full authority, and all rules apply.

WSYSA Rule 214.3 Touchline Misconduct as well as WSYSA Rule 305.11 Coaching/Sideline Conduct governs conduct before, during, and after all WVYSA sanctioned events. Violations or ignorance of these rules will not be tolerated.

214.3 Touchline Misconduct

“Touchline Misconduct” is a verbal statement or action that impedes, distracts, interferes or delays in any manner a referee (including assistant/volunteer referees or fourth officials) from the duties of his/her game management. Such misconduct may occur before, during and after a match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur at later times when directly related to the duties or actions of a referee. Touchline Misconduct is not restricted to actions at the touchline or a match. Penalties for Touchline Misconduct may include a suspension or ban for 1 game up to 5 games. In unusual circumstances or with repeat offenders, a suspension or ban may be increased up to 6 months or longer.

305.11 Coaching/Sideline Conduct

(a) Coaching from the sidelines – giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position – is permitted, provided:

(1) No mechanical/electronic devices are used

(2) The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue.

(b) All coaches/ player/parents etc. are to remain within the “coaching area” (2 yards behind the touch line, and not within 18 yards of the goal line).

(c) No player/ coach,/parents etc. are to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, or spectators.

(d) No player/coach/parents etc. are to use profanity.

(e) No player/ coach/parents shall not incite, in any manner, or engage in any kind of disruptive behavior.

(f) If the above rules are violated, the referee shall ask the offending party for

compliance with the rules. The referee may file a report to the Club/WVYSA or WSYSA.

(g) In the event that compliance is not received from the offending party, the referee shall ask the offending party to leave the playing area. If this request is made, the referee must file a written report to the WSYSA office.

(h) If the offending party refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee shall abandon the match and file a written report of the game abandonment with the WSYSA office.

(i) It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each Coach, or Manager of the team shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

The WVYSA has instituted a “zero tolerance” policy with regards to violations of the above listed rules. Any administrator, coach, player, or spectator who is found to have engaged in Touchline Misconduct will be subject to the aforementioned sanctions and may be required to attend a hearing before the WSYSA Disciplinary Committee in Olympia.

Coaches who fail to take control of sideline offenders, or who themselves violate the Coaching/Sideline Conduct rules will face sanctions imposed by BRSC or WVYSA and may forfeit their teams ability to continue participation.



I acknowledge reading the information provided and (where applicable) agree to the published waiver.