

HOWELL SOCCER CLUB'S Zero Referee Abuse Policy (ZAP)

Referee: For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a referee shall include the Center referee CR, Assistant referee AR, the club's / team's line persons and any official, coach, parent, or player.

(1) Referee abuse will be defined as such: Any player, coach, manager, HSC official, or parent who threatens a referee through a physical act or verbal statement, either explicitly or implicitly, shall be brought before the HSC Board of Directors within 24 hours or/and will be suspended for a period of at least four consecutive matches. The four consecutive matches will be consecutive regardless of seasonal play.

(2) Abuse of a referee shall include but is not limited to verbal and nonverbal communication which contains foul or abusive language and which implies or directly threatens physical harm, spewing a beverage on or spitting at a referee or the referee's personal property.

1. Foul or abusive, verbal or nonverbal communication
2. Threatening bodily harm or the attempting of bodily harm
 - Striking or the attempt to strike
 - Kicking or the attempt to kick
 - Choking
 - Grabbing or the attempt to grab
 - The attempt to make or any bodily contact of a referee
 - Throwing of an object or the attempting to throw an object
 - Pushing or laying of hands upon

(3) Abuse Suspension shall be commencing with the first match after the individual has been found to have committed any such act, not the HSC Board's action. The suspension will be defined as the inability to participate in or attend any HSC activities, for example any match/game, any team's practices, any HSC event and any training session, until such suspension is fully completed. There will be no refund of registration fees in regard to any suspension.

(4) The HSC Board of Directors may not provide for a penalty shorter than the Abuse Suspension, four (4) consecutive matches, but may provide for a longer suspension.

(5) A match shall mean any official match (game) of that individual's or their child's teams in HSC recreational league and Jersey Coast or MAPS play. Examples of matches: regular season, all-star, any type of playoff, championship, officially sanctioned tournament.

(6) A written copy of such Referee Abuse will be filed with USSF, USYSA, NJYSA, NCSA, and HSC. In the case of under 18 year old referee abuse, the Howell Police or the local authorities will be called to the place of occurrence.

(7) A second violation of this policy will result in the individual's family termination from HSC for life.