



## ORTING SOCCER CLUB

### Referee Abuse & Assault Policy

P.O. Box 863, Orting, WA 98360 ~ Phone: 360.893.8823

The Orting Soccer Club has adopted a zero tolerance, referee abuse and assault policy. This means that any yelling, badgering, disrespect, derogatory comments or physical assault directed at a referee or assistant referee, on or off the field of play, will not be tolerated by a player, coach, manager, club official, parent or spectators.

***USSF Referee Abuse & Assault Policy:*** *Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc. Any player, coach, manager, club official, or league official who threatens through a physical act or verbal statement, either explicitly or implicitly, a referee ("Referee Abuse") shall be suspended for a period of at least three consecutive matches (the "Abuse Suspension"). The Abuse Suspension shall commence with the first match after which the individual has been found to have committed this act.*

Coaches are responsible for the sideline behavior of everyone on your side of the field. Zero tolerance means that disciplinary action will be taken for each and every offense.

This will be a non issue if we all practice a few simple guidelines.

- Referees are a valuable and scarce commodity. Part of the reason for this is the unnecessary and unwarranted abuse they endure. If we treat referees with the respect and the dignity they deserve we will have a lot more qualified referees willing to work our games.
- Coaches must set the example, speak calmly to referees and show the utmost respect, even if the referee truly blows the call we must let it go. Referees usually know when they make a mistake and will subconsciously make up for it at some time. Calls are never reversed as result of a tantrum by a coach or parent. It is just a wasted effort and sets a very bad example. Improper sideline behavior does not fit into our Association or Clubs philosophy.
- As a coach, control your sideline. You are the in charge. Have a meeting with all players about showing proper respect towards, referees, parents, coaches and opposing players, coaches and parents. Have this same meeting with your parents. For the parents; yelling anything other than encouragement from the sidelines causes confusion and makes it difficult for the coach to lead the team. Ask them to please refrain from coaching your child from the sideline. If they don't agree with you or would like to offer suggestions, please ask them to do so away from the team after the game or practice. Players learn the value of being part of the team by following instructions. This benefit is lost when players are conflicted over whom they should listen to.