

OV Toros FC



Referee Abuse Policy

Misconduct toward a referee may include, but is not limited to, all registered referees, assistant referees, forth officials or other duly appointed to assist. It also includes any unlicensed or unregistered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.

Any act committed before, during, or after a match, even at later times, if it is match related, such as at work or at home may constitute misconduct toward game officials.

Each coach is responsible for his/her actions, the actions of his/her players, spectators associated with his/her team, and other members of the coaching staff with regard to game referees. Each coach, player, and spectator shall at all times support the referee and assistant referees. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority, and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, spectators, coaches, and referees alike. No one is to address the referee in a negative manner during or after the game.

REFEREE ABUSE:

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 (must imply a threat of physical harm) , spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; verbally threatening a referee with remarks that carry imply or direct threats of physical harm. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game." or "You won't get out of here in one piece." shall be deemed referee abuse.

Discipline: Minimum sanctions

- a. Six (6) games or three (3) month suspension, whichever is longer.
- b. Spitting at a referee or game official, six (6) games or six (6) month suspension, whichever is longer.
- c. An adult upon a youth referee, minimum of one (1) year suspension.

REFEREE ASSAULT:

Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee committed before during, or after a match, even later times if it is match related such as at work or at home. "For the purpose of this rule, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the actions are irrelevant." Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following act committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; 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.).

Discipline: The player, coach, manager, spectator or official committing the referee assault is automatically suspended as follows:

- a. For a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least six (6) months from the time of the assault;
- b. Except as provided in above, for any other assault, at least twelve (12) months from the time of the assault;
- c. For an assault committed by an adult and the referee is seventeen (17) years of age or younger, at least three (3) years; or
- d. For an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least five (5) years.

Coaches' communications with the referee and assistant referees:

Coaches and/or bench personnel may NOT address any member of the referee crew during play except for:

- Responding to a referee initiated communication.
- Making a request for substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues, such as an injured player on the field.
- To request clarification of any call provided the request is courteous and non-argumentative.

Violations of this policy during a game will have the below consequences:

- First infraction: Referee may stop the game and remind the coach or bench personnel of OV Toros FC Referee Abuse Policy.
- Second infraction: Caution. (No yellow card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel). The referee may issue a final warning that a third infraction may result in an ejection.

- Third infraction: Ejection. (No red card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel). The referee may instruct the coach or bench personnel to leave the field. Thereafter, the ejected person must depart to a distance where he or she can no longer see or hear anything to do with the match. If the ejected person fails to leave the field, the referee may abandon the game.

Nothing in this Policy may be construed to limit the referee's discretion as granted by FIFA Laws of the Game.

Spectator communications with the referee and assistant referees:

Negative or critical comments directed to any member of the referee crew will not be tolerated. Violations of this policy at any time will have the below consequences:

- First infraction: Referee may stop the game, request the assistance of both coaches, and remind the spectators of OV Toro's FC Referee Abuse Policy.
- Second infraction: Referee may stop the game and issue a final warning that a third infraction may result in the ejection of the coach in charge of the spectator(s).
- Third infraction: The referee may instruct the coaches to direct the spectator to leave the field and may eject the responsible coach for failing to control the spectator(s). If the ejected coach and the spectator(s) fail to leave the area of the field, the referee may abandon the game.

Nothing in this rule may be construed to limit the referee's discretion as granted by FIFA Laws of the Game.

Notification: Should a referee eject any player, coach, bench personnel or spectator, and/or abandon a game, he/she shall notify OV Toro's FC in writing. A written report of the pertinent facts should be sent to the OV Toro's FC office within 24 hours. If a game is abandoned prior to completion, the referee will make no determination as to the outcome of the match. OV Toro's FC may refer the matter to its disciplinary committee for further action, if necessary, and/or to the appropriate competitive committee for disposition of an abandoned game.

OV TOROS FC will not tolerate any abuse of referees, assistant referees, or fourth officials from coaches, players, other team staff, or spectators. This policy ensures that referees and assistant referees can officiate games in a safe, non-threatening environment and will not be subjected to any critical, disparaging, or otherwise abusive remarks. OV Toro's FC expects all clubs, coaches, and players to assist in maintaining the highest of standards in sportsmanship and personal conduct.