

# Enfield Soccer Club Zero Tolerance Policy

The Enfield Soccer Club has advertised a Zero Tolerance Policy for several years. While that policy was communicated, it was never fully explained nor were any guidelines set forth to help control adverse situations. We have all heard of incidents, in this era of youth sports, which have escalated out of control. While we do not feel that Enfield Soccer Club has a chronic problem, we felt that clarifying this policy would help prevent problems and keep the proper spirit present during competition.

## ZERO TOLERANCE

Zero Tolerance, simply stated, starts with the courtesy extended toward the referee. It is not proper form or tradition to question a referee's call. Most of our referees are our youth soccer players. The referee's job is impossible to do to the satisfaction of everyone. It is not acceptable to yell at or question a referee's call during the match.

The persons responsible for a team and its spectators are the coach, assistant coach and team managers. They shall support the referee team at all times. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and potentially creates a hostile environment for the players, the referee's and spectators.

### NO ONE IS TO ADDRESS THE REFEREE DURING THE MATCH!!!!

<b>Coaches</b>	<b>Spectators</b>
<p>Exceptions During the Match:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Responding to a referee who initiates communication</li> <li>2. Asking for a substitution</li> <li>3. Pointing out emergencies or safety issues</li> <li>4. At half time or at the end of the match.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Penalties</b></p> <p>Referees will use their discretion as to whether a coach should be removed. If a coach is asked to leave a game he must do so immediately. The minimum penalty for a coach who is removed from a game is a 2 game suspension.</p>	<p>Exceptions during a Match:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Referee initiating a communication</li> <li>2. Pointing out emergencies or safety issues</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Penalties</b></p> <p>Referees will use their discretion as to whether a spectator is to be asked to leave. It is the coach's responsibility to control his team's spectators and to remove them if so requested. If the spectator does not leave, the game will be forfeited. The minimum penalty for a spectator who is removed from a game is a 2 game suspension.</p>

Note: It is important to remember that the seriousness of the infraction is solely the opinion of the referee responsible for the match. There is no questioning of a Caution or Dismissal at the field, to the head referee, a field marshal, or any Enfield Soccer Club Board Member. The only avenue for appeal is through the Enfield Soccer Club Executive Board at a hearing called at a later date.

If an Enfield Soccer Club Member is a witness to any inappropriate or violent behavior by a coach, assistant coach, team manager or spectator they are encouraged to inform the offender that they need to adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy. If the behavior continues the member can and should send in a report to the Executive Board for further review, up to and including a suspension of the offending party.