



# HELP US FIGHT REFEREE ABUSE

## Zero Tolerance for harassment of referees

The South County Soccer Club will initiate a "Zero-tolerance" policy towards harassing referees. We believe in good and fair competition but one that's free from any types of referee intimidation and abuse. The goal of this initiative is help coaches and parents ensure a positive and safe environment for referees and players and to encourage our valuable referees to continue growing in experience and skill.

In Spring 2008, it will be the Club's Policy that **NO ONE** should talk directly to the referee during the game except as allowed below:

### Coaches

During the Game:

- ♪ May ask for substitutions
- ♪ May point out emergencies or safety issues

At halftime or at the end of the game:

- ♪ May ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way
- ♪ May give a polite and friendly feedback to the referee
- ♪ Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation is allowed in any conversation with the referee.

Penalties:

- ♪ 1st Minor Infraction - The referee should ignore
- ♪ 2nd Minor Infraction - A verbal warning
- ♪ 3rd Infraction - Caution (show a yellow card)
- ♪ 4th Infraction – Ejection (Referee will show a red card and stop the game until the person leaves the field)

### Spectators

During the game:

- ♪ May only talk to the referee to point out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- ♪ 1st Infraction - Referee will stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.
- ♪ 2nd Infraction – The referee will stop the game and ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the game.
- ♪ 3rd Infraction - The referee will instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee will abandon the game if the spectator refuses to leave the field.
- ♪ If the referee abandons the game, the referee will call the referee coordinator immediately to report to the field for a potential resolution. We expect that this situation should never happen, but should one occur, phone me or any club board member.