

REFEREE/OPPOSING TEAM - ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Referee Zero Tolerance Policy

Beach Cities Sports Youth Flag Football recognizes the hard work and dedication that our referees put forth and want to keep them as part of the BCS/GBCS family as long as we can. Sure they will make mistakes, they are only human. Let's try to keep that in mind as the coaches "coach" and the parents "cheer" our Kids from the sidelines.

Beach Cities Sports Youth Flag Football has a "Zero Tolerance Policy" for ALL referees in order to preserve and protect them.

All individuals responsible for a team (Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Parent Volunteers), all spectators (parents, friends, siblings, relatives) and all BCS/GBCS Players shall support the referee and respect his/her decisions. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators.

Consequently, Beach Cities Sports Youth Flag Football has adopted and modified the following rules:

- No one is to speak to the referee in an aggressive manner before, during or after the game.
- *Head Coaches* may ask questions, politely, before and after the game, point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed during the game.
- Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game. NO YELLING at the referee—EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation of any kind before, during or after the game. That includes Coaches, Players and Spectators.
- If the Coach wishes to get an explanation for a particular call he/she must wait until halftime or after the game is finished to approach the referee in a calm and controlled manner, but it is not the Referee's responsibility to defend or justify their calls.
- All decisions are made "in the opinion of the referee" (ITOOTR) and to the best of their ability. The decisions of the referee, and all other game officials, must always be respected.

Violators may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the BCS/GBCS Disciplinary Committee and/or BCS/GBCS Board of Directors.

If Coaches, Players or Spectators have questions or complaints regarding particular calls, rules, or a specific referee, or wish to give feedback regarding a referee, please feel free to contact the violations@bcsflagfootball.com or rules@bcsflagfootball.com or any other board member.

Enforcing the Referee Zero Tolerance Policy

If a Coach, Player or Spectator questions the call of a referee in a manner deemed inappropriate/irresponsible, the referee may stop the game, retrieve the game ball, and invite the coach onto the field for a conversation.

During this conversation the coach may be told 3 things:

- The purpose of the conversation is not to “debate” a call but to inform the coach that the behavior of the Coach/Player/Spectator is unacceptable. This is their final warning.
- An Assistant Coach should make the Spectator or Player aware of the situation.
- The Coach can go back to coaching per BCS/GBCS rules, the player can go back to playing, per BCS/GBCS rules and the spectator can watch the game like a normal person - or the Coach/Spectator/Player can leave the playing facility on their own.
- The Coach/Player/Spectator may be asked to leave if the referee has to speak to them again during the game.
- Any Coach/Player/Spectator who is heard “verbally abusing a referee” may automatically be removed by the referee.

“Verbal abuse” includes, but is not limited to, foul and abusive language. As with all decisions made by the referee, what constitutes “verbal abuse” is entirely “in the opinion of the referee” (ITOOTR).

If the unacceptable behavior of the Coach/Player/Spectator occurs after the game has ended it will still be reported by the referee and will be considered as a cause for disciplinary action.

Referees must submit a written or verbal report of any occurrences where a Coach/Player/Spectator is ejected, and there will be an investigation to determine the facts and subsequent penalty if necessary. The penalties are at the discretion of BCS/GBCS Disciplinary Committee and/or BCS/GBCS Board of Directors and may include, but are not limited to, suspension from future games.

Ejection from the game is typically cause for a one-game suspension. If it happens again, it is a two-game suspension. A third time will cause the Coach/Player/Spectator to be removed from the league.

BCS/GBCS Disciplinary Committee also reserves the right to investigate instances when abuse of a Referee/Player/Coach is not reported by the referee or volunteer, but is subsequently brought to the Board’s attention by any individual. The penalties are at the discretion of the Board and may include, but are not limited to, suspension from future games.

If a Coach/Player/Spectator is ejected from a game, they are automatically suspended from attending the next game. The coach will be allowed to attend from the stands but may not Coach before or during the game. The player may also watch from the stands.

The Spectator will not be allowed on the school grounds at all.

Opposing Team Zero Tolerance Policy

Once again, please keep in mind this is youth sports. These are children. They will make mistakes. Any Coaches, Spectators or Players that speak to a member of the opposing team (players or coaches) in a hostile manner or use abusive or foul language will be removed from the sidelines or stands at our referees discretion. No warning is required. This will automatically trigger a one-game suspension.

Violators will be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the BCS/GBCS Disciplinary Committee and/or BCS/GBCS Board of Directors.

By clicking submit you are agreeing to the Terms and Conditions.