



Youth Referee Abuse Policy

AYSO Area 11-Q

1. AYSO referees, including youth referees, are volunteers charged with the responsibility to see that games are conducted safely and fairly, and in a manner that fosters the enjoyment of the game by the players, coaches and spectators.
2. Individual abilities will vary, depending on their training, experience and personality. Regardless of their abilities, the referee is empowered by the Laws of the Game to control the match, enforce the Laws, and to take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner (AYSO Laws of The Game, Law 5).
3. Coaches are responsible for the behavior and conduct of their spectators. It is never acceptable to verbally abuse a referee or player. A coach/spectator may not, before, during or after a game, criticize or discuss with a youth referee his performance other than to thank or compliment the referee.
4. If considered necessary, complaints, criticisms or recommendations concerning a youth referee's performance shall be directed to the Regional Referee Administrator or the Director of Youth Referees.
5. While dissent, either by word or action with, and public criticism of a referee is never appropriate, abusive language or conduct directed toward a youth referee will not be tolerated. Abusive language can be, but not limited to, rude speech, critical language (including yelling) addressed to the youth referee, and expressing disapproval or blame.
6. The Area Referee Administrator, upon receipt of any reported abuse of a youth referee shall investigate the incident, consult with the Disciplinary Committee, and shall implement appropriate discipline, before the next game if possible. The offending person and the Disciplinary Committee shall be notified of the disciplinary action.