

Policy Name:	<b>Referee Abuse Policy</b>
Date Approved	
Policy Description	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Coaches' communications with the referee and assistant referees:</b> Coaches and/or bench personnel may NOT address any member of the referee crew during play except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to a referee initiated communication.</li> <li>• Making a request for substitutions.</li> <li>• Pointing out emergencies or safety issues, such as an injured player on the field.</li> <li>• To request clarification of any call provided the request is courteous and non-argumentative.</li> </ul> <p>Violations of this policy during a game will have the below consequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First infraction: Referee may stop the game and remind the coach or bench personnel of Soccer Maine's Referee Abuse Policy.</li> <li>• Second infraction: Caution. (<i>No yellow card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel</i>). The referee may issue a final warning that a third infraction may result in an ejection.</li> <li>• Third infraction: Ejection. (<i>No red card shall be shown to any coach or bench personnel</i>). 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.</li> </ul> <p>Nothing in this Policy may be construed to limit the referee's discretion as granted by FIFA Laws of the Game.</p> <p><b>Spectator communications with the referee and assistant referees:</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First infraction: Referee may stop the game, request the assistance of both coaches, and remind the spectators of Soccer Maine's Referee Abuse Policy.</li> <li>• Second infraction: Referee may stop the game and issue a final</li> </ul>