



CLEBURNE SOCCER ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 255
CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033

IN REPLY, REFER TO
CSA Policy
20131015-01

From: President, Cleburne Soccer Association
To: Members, Cleburne Soccer Association

Ref: (a) North Texas State Soccer Association Bylaws
(b) FIFA Laws of the Game
(c) Cleburne Soccer Association Bylaws

Subj: COACH AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT

1. Purpose. This letter provides guidance and policy concerning conduct by coaches and spectators at all soccer matches.
2. Policy. Reference (a) establishes the guidance for the Cleburne Soccer Association.
3. Spectators are not allowed to address or otherwise interfere with any referee during matches.
4. Team Captains or Coaches may address the referee during a match for the following reasons:
 - a. Responding to a referee who initiates communication
 - b. Requesting a substitution of a player
 - c. Pointing out emergency or safety-related issues that the referee cannot immediately see and address
 - d. At halftime or after the game, a coach may ask a referee for clarification of a call or application of the Laws of the Game.
5. When a Coach or Team Captain is addressing the referee, they will keep it short and confined to clarifying questions only. This is not the proper time or place to debate a call that has been made.
6. Referee decisions are final. There is not an appeal process to overturn a decision made by a referee.
7. Penalties for spectators and/or coaches found in violation of this policy include but are not limited to:
 - a. Verbal Warning
 - b. Official Caution (referee does not show yellow card)



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- c. Dismissal (referee does not show red card)
 - d. Appeals and Disciplinary or other Committee Hearing
 - e. Require team to forfeit any games at which spectator is present on the touchline
 - f. Require offending team to pay for presence of police at the game.
 - g. Cause the spectator to be placed under a municipal "peace bond"
 - h. Refuse registration for any player whose parents or associated spectators cannot be controlled at more than one match.
8. In accordance with Law 5 of reference (b), the referee may stop, suspend, or terminate the match because of outside interference of any kind.
9. If a spectator or coach is dismissed from the game, they must leave the playing area immediately before the match will be allowed to continue. They may remain in the parking lot if no other disturbance is caused. If the offender continues to make a disturbance or refuses to leave, the local police department will be called to remove them from the property.
10. Further action may be taken by the Board of Directors if deemed necessary to prevent future problems.
11. Coaches shall not incite their spectators, players, or other team officials or encourage them to interfere with the match in any way. Making demeaning remarks about the referee, opposing coach, or opposing players will not be tolerated. Sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation is strictly prohibited.
12. Spectators and Coaches are encouraged to fill out a *Referee Critique* form found on the league and association websites.
13. In accordance with reference (a), if a referee cannot identify persons responsible for spectator misconduct, options include:
- a. Dismissing the coach
 - b. Dismissing all spectators from one or both sides of the field
 - c. Temporarily stopping the match until Board of Directors and/or Field Marshals are present.



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14. If a coach is dismissed from the match, they must sit out the next match for their team. A *Match Sit Out Verification Form* must be filled out by the referee of the next match. This includes all regular season games or tournament games that fall under NTSSA. The lack of a hearing or referee report on the suspension/expulsion of the offender shall not nullify the suspension (to sit out) the next game.

15. Cleburne Soccer Association will issue severe punishment to those players, coaches, and assistant coaches guilty of extreme violent conduct while participating in a match and for violence toward any person or property after being ejected, while on the touchline, or approaching or leaving the game site.

16. The Director of Coaching may with or without cause relieve any coach from his or her duties at any time. The suspended coach may appeal the decision to the Executive Committee in accordance with the appeal process as outlined in reference (c).

17. The Age Group Commissioner, Director of Referees, and Director of Coaching are all good "first contact" options for spectators and coaches that need to address the conduct and/or professionalism of a referee.

18. Every youth and adult player; every coach, assistant coach, and team manager; and all league administrators and referees are to familiarize themselves with section 3.11 (Discipline) of reference (a). It is intended that the player and/or coach will make known the contents of section 3.11 to his or her parents and spectators.

G.W. WEINSCHENK