



## Nordic Cup Tournament Zero Tolerance Policy

It is the responsibility of ALL coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and spectators/supporters in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, disputing referee calls, yelling, criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, violent play, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior detrimental to the game, will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for referee support and spectator control immediately before, during, and after the game, at the field and surrounding areas. Coaches, players, and spectators may not say or do anything that in any way conveys any criticism of the referee. Failure to do so sets a bad example, will undermine the referee's authority, and may potentially create a hostile environment for the players, the referee, other participants, and the spectators.

Therefore, Nordic Soccer and the Nordic Cup Tournament has adopted the following rule: No one, except the players may speak to the referee during or after a game. This rule, exceptions and penalties are described below.

### A. Persons Responsible for a Team (Coach and Assistant Coaches)

Coaches and assistant coaches may not speak to the referee during the game except in these instances:

1. Responding to a referee-initiated communication
2. Making substitutions
3. Asking for how much time
4. Pointing out emergency or safety issues

Coaches may ask questions before the start of the game. Coaches may not approach the referee at half time or at the end of the game. Coaches who have concerns about a referee's officiating may express those concerns in writing to the Nordic Cup Tournament Director (Marcel@nordicsoccer.org) who will alert the Referee Committee. They may not express those concerns directly to the referee.

### Penalties:

The referee should deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

1. Initial Minor Infraction: Verbal Warning
2. Second Minor Infraction: Caution or Yellow Card
3. Third Minor Infraction: Red Card/Dismissal/Ejection
4. Any Major Infraction: Warning or Dismissal (Ejection) depending on the severity of the infraction.

### B. Spectators

Spectators should not do anything that in any way conveys any criticism of the referee.

Spectators should not speak to the referee during the game except in these instances:

1. Responding to a referee-initiated communication

2. Pointing out emergency or safety issues

Penalties:

The referee should deal with infractions of this rule in the following manner:

1. First Infraction: The referee, at the next stoppage of play, should ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.
2. Second Infraction: A verbal warning. The referee, at the next stoppage of play, should ask the coach to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be a removal of the spectator or the referee will abandon the game.
3. Third Infraction: The referee, at the next stoppage of play, shall instruct the coach to direct the spectator to leave the field. The referee should abandon the game if the spectator does not leave the field.

If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report with the tournament referee assignor and the Director of the Nordic Cup Tournament (Marcel@nordicsoccer.org). As a result, the Nordic Tournament may impose a forfeit on the spectator's team.

The referee may need the assistance of the responsible persons from both teams if the spectator is not affiliated with either team.

C. Final

The forfeiting team will not be entitled to any fee refund and will be banned from attending future Nordic Cup Tournaments.

Updated 5/18/18

This document is currently in WORKING form. Please check back on a regular basis to see updates.