

## ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

CCFL strongly adheres to a new Zero Tolerance rule that prohibits talking to the referees. The purpose of this policy is to make it clear that verbal abuse or negative criticism of referees is as unacceptable as verbal abuse or negative criticism of players. This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always "right" and the spectator or coach is always "wrong." Just as players make mistakes during play, referees will make mistakes in officiating. Due to a shortage of referees, we feel it necessary to protect those willing to step up and be a referee. They must receive positive support from coaches and spectators to continue to grow as an official.

### POLICY

1. **NO** spectators are to speak to the referees before, during, or after the game.
2. Absolutely **NO** disputing calls, during or after the game, no direct or indirect remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play. **NO YELLING** at the referee, **EVER**, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind before, during, or after the game.
3. If Parents/Coaches would like to provide feedback about the refereeing, please allow a couple of days to cool down and really think about the game before contacting the Carpenter Center League Administrator.

### Disciplinary Actions for Referee Abuse

1. If a parent/spectator engages with a referee, the referee can stop the game requesting the coach of the team to deal with the parent/spectator. This First violation will result in points taken away from the spectators/coaches team (can be a touchdown or more) if the referee feels the abuse to be excessive.
2. Failure to comply with the referee's request, will be a second violation and result in referees leaving the field of play and not returning to that game. Thus, the game will end and result in a possible forfeit.

Positive encouragement and cheering for players on either team during the game is allowed and welcomed. Parents, spectators, and coaches are expected to be role models of good sportsmanship at all times before, during, and after the game.