

A Message from the President



“C’mon, man! Really?” That is exactly what I was thinking when I received over a dozen emails after Week 5 about coach & parent sideline behaviors. Emails and messages poured in from our referees, parents, coaches, and neighboring clubs. As somebody who wears, and has worn the Roseville crest on the chest proudly since 2009, I cannot express how disappointed I was when I received these alarming emails and messages.

- ‘Coach yells profanity at the referee’;
- ‘Parents confront & physically threaten the referee in the parking lot after the game’;
- ‘Coach yelling expletives across the field to opposing coach’;
- ‘Parents calling opponent players derogatory names’;
- ‘A first time center referee, a minor with AR experience, no longer wants to ref because of the abuse they took from the parents on the sidelines’

All of those incidents are certainly bad but the last one makes me so sad. Who are these “adults” taking their anger out on a minor, who is bravely putting themselves out there for **OUR kids** so they can play the game!!? C’mon, man. Imagine the referee is **YOUR child** and another adult is yelling at them. They are trying their best to officiate a game, which is not an easy task. Every referee enters the match with full intention to catch every potential foul. Still, not every foul will be caught. Angles, perspective, interpretation, experience, and missing information are factors. This is exactly why the club is investing time and resources to continuously train our referees. But there is much for a referee to process in a split second, this comes with experience, and which is why we created the [referee feedback form](#) (to be submitted by coaches only). Remember your first time driving a car at the age of 16, how overwhelming that was? And now envision dozens of people yelling and criticizing you at every stop and turn? You would have never stepped foot back in that car!!?! That is what we are finding with our youth referees because of parent and coach behavior. Unacceptable!

The RYSC Board met last Monday night and unanimously stands behind our ZERO-TOLERANCE policy. There is:

- **NEVER** a reason to badger the referee, period. They made the call to the best of their ability.
- **NEVER** a reason for coaches to show anger, vulgarity, foul language, or express dissent towards the referee, opposing parents, players or coaches
- **NEVER** a reason for parents on the sideline to say ANYTHING to anyone that they would not want someone to say to their own child
- **NEVER** a reason for anyone at the game to show any type of disrespectful behavior, especially in front of those we try to protect, the kids!

We also acknowledged that as a 13-member board, we cannot monitor and enforce suspensions for 8,000+ parents which is why moving forward, the coaches will need to step in and be held responsible for their sidelines and will receive the full brunt of disciplinary actions, when necessary. Coaches will be expected to monitor and control their sideline. **If a parent shows misconduct, the coach is suspended, immediately. If a coach shows misconduct, they will be suspended immediately,** and that could mean you’ll have to **FORFEIT the next game.**

As our Referee Assignor Carlos Ledesma said emphatically Monday, 'I really HOPE that we all, parents, coaches, neighboring clubs, and their Boards, can come together to turn this thing around'. I assured him we would, because I have faith in all of you. You are adults. This is a game. This is supposed to be fun.

Folks, we are Roseville. Just like I represent the club, you represent everyone in the club with your sideline behavior. The truth is, only a small fraction of the games played every weekend have these types of incidents but even one is one too many. One drop of poison in a cup of water, well, poisons the entire cup. It does not reflect who we are, what we stand for, and why we run this program for the kids.

SO... my **CHALLENGE** to each and every one of you, for the remainder of the season, **if you see your coach, or a fellow parent getting riled up, stand up, take them by the hand and go for a walk until they calm down.** Remind them of this email. You may be the reason why your team doesn't forfeit the next game. Or you will be sitting at home next Saturday with your child asking you why they can't play their game?! You'll only have yourself to blame, as you the adults make the difference. Help me, help you, and police yourself!

ZERO TOLERANCE! I believe in you, Roseville!!

October 13th 2023