



Cobras FC Zero Tolerance Policy

- The Cobras FC was placed on probation by RDYSL for the 2019 season. After implementing a strict Club Zero Tolerance policy, the club was removed from probation following the 2019 season.
- The Zero Tolerance policy announced in 2019 will remain in effect until further notice.
- Head coaches are responsible for communicating to assistant coaches, team managers and ALL parents, the behavioral expectations and the penalties associated with not adhering to these expectations.
- Coaches are fully responsible for the actions of their sidelines.

RDYSL LEAGUE & COBRAS FC EXPECTATIONS FOR COACHING STAFF AND SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

Parents and Spectators

Spectator misconduct includes but is not limited to verbal abuse (of referee, opposing coach, player or another spectator), unauthorized entry to the field of play, fighting or threats. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of their coaching staff and spectators. No parent or other spectator shall address the referee or assistant referees at any time. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players or coaches of either team.
2. Spectators shall not dispute ANY calls during or after the game.
3. Spectators shall not advise the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
4. Spectators shall not yell at the referee, EVER, including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, discriminatory comments or feedback of any kind before, during, or after the game.

The only allowable exceptions to the above are:

1. Spectators may respond, using a positive and non-threatening tone, to a referee who has initiated a conversation with a parent or spectator.
2. Spectators may point out an emergency or safety issues, such as a player down on the field or observed lightning.

Coaching staff

It is the responsibility of all Cobras FC coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and spectators in all matches. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game, resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee, coaches, bench personnel and spectators.

As role models for all of the participants and spectators, RDYSL coaches are expected to be supportive of, and to applaud the effort, good play, and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players in a contest. By example, coaches and bench personnel are expected to show that although they are competing in a game, participants at all times have respect for the opponent, referees and spectators.

RDYSL and Cobras FC will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees, players or coaches of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic, or otherwise ill-intentioned

behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to sanction by the league and additional sanctions WILL be imposed by the Cobras FC.

Cobras FC coaches shall not interact directly or indirectly with the coaches or players of the opposing team during the game in any manner that may be construed as negative, hostile or sarcastic either by way of demonstrative actions and gestures or by ill-intentioned remarks. Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the officials at any time.

Cobras FC coaches shall not address the referee during the game except to:

1. Respond in a positive and non-threatening way to a referee who has initiated a conversation
2. Point out emergency or safety issues
3. Make substitutions
4. Ask the referee to repeat a call (this should be infrequent)
5. Ask for the time remaining (this should be infrequent)

It is important to note that coaches and spectators are expected to maintain a positive behavior after the conclusion of the game as well.

Coaches alone (not spectators) are allowed to ask a referee after a game, in a polite and constructive way, to explain a Law or foul but not judgment calls made in a game.

1. Polite and friendly concern can be exchanged with the referee. If the polite tone of the conversation changes, the referee may abandon the exchange at any time.
2. Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation is allowed.

COBRAS FC CLUB PENALTIES FOR ZERO TOLERANCE VIOLATIONS:

First Cobras FC coach offense:

- Fine of \$200 due to the club.
- If applicable, their child is suspended from attending the next RDYSL league game.
- If the violating coach cannot be identified by the coaching staff or the sideline champion, the head coach will serve the suspension for the next 3 league games.
- For teams on probation from the previous year, the first offense fine will be \$400 to the club and a 5 game suspension for the coach.

Second coach offense:

- Fine of \$400 due to the club.
- The violating coach is suspended for the remainder of the season.
- If the violating coach cannot be identified by the official, the coaching staff or the sideline champion, the head coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

First spectator/parent offense:

- Fine of \$200 due to the club.
- The spectator/parent and the child associated with the spectator/parent is suspended for the next RDYSL league game.
- If the violating spectator can not be identified by the official, the coaching staff or the sideline champion, the fans for the team will be not be allowed on the sideline for the next league game.

Second spectator/parent offense:

- Fine of \$400 due to the club.
- The spectator/parent and their child are banned from attending league games for the remainder of the season.
- If the violating spectator/parent can not be identified by the coaching staff or the sideline champion, the head coach will be banned for the remainder of the RDYSL season and the fans for the team will be not be allowed on the sideline for the remainder of their RDYSL league games.

Other Points:

- All Cobra FC teams receiving a zero tolerance violation in current season are automatically placed on Club probation for the next season. Teams remain on probation until after they go through a full season with no zero tolerance violations.
- Coaches are all empowered to remove a fellow coach or a spectator during a game if they feel zero tolerance expectations are violated
- All fines must be paid prior to the coach, spectator and player returning to the next league game.
- If an RDYSL league game forfeit results from a coach or player suspension, the team will be responsible for paying the resulting RDYSL league fines.
- Risk management and players passes for those suspended, must be turned into coach's liaison and picked up after suspensions are fully served.
- All violating coaches and assistant coaches will be asked to attend the next scheduled Cobras FC board meeting to explain a zero tolerance violation and share a plan of action to avoid a reoccurrence.
- All suspensions not fully served in current season will be carried over to next season.
- In most instances we will not be notified of an infraction until the RDYSL game report is posted to the RDYSL website. In these instances, the coach will be notified as soon as the fine is recognized, at which point suspensions will begin and the club fines will be due.
- The Cobras FC board will review all zero tolerance violations and reserves the right to make adjustments to the penalties associated with the same, including penalties for coaches who coach multiple teams.
- All fines collected by Cobras FC in current season will be divided up and distributed evenly to all RDYSL teams that did not receive a zero tolerance in the calendar year.
- Cobras FC will delay a club enforced suspension if the team can show that it has initiated the RDYSL appeal process within 72 hours of the league notification of a violation.

Pregame procedures to be followed by Cobras FC coaches prior to EVERY league game:

- All Cobras FC coaches approach and introduce themselves to all officials
- Head coach addresses all spectators and reminds them of club and league zero tolerance expectations
- Head coach appoints a sideline champion (or champions) to assist with monitoring spectators. If the head coach elects to not appoint a sideline champion, the coaching staff will be responsible for monitoring their sideline