



South Jersey Soccer League Statement on Verbal Abuse

The Executive Board of the SJSL is continuously concerned with the manner in which players, coaches and spectators conduct themselves during competitive events. Of specific concern is the matter of verbal abuse directed towards players, referees, coaches or spectators by anyone in attendance at an SJSL sponsored game or program.

Verbal abuse may, for example, take the form of "talking smack" or "talking trash", as the practice is referred to by some players, insulting the competency or ability of an individual, racial or ethnic epithets, and the use of profanity or inappropriate language.

The SJSL has specific sanctions in its rules for verbal abuse as determined by referees and submitted by his/her report. The SJSL understands, however, that referees may not be in a position to witness and report all of these incidents and realizes that such incidents may be witnessed by a club official. For this purpose, the SJSL maintains a Committee to investigate reported complaints and use its authority to levy sanctions under the League's "Good of the Game" rule provisions. The SJSL expects the prompt reporting to it by a club official of any conduct that he or she deems to violate this position.

It is the intention of the SJSL to investigate allegations of verbal abuse that are brought to its attention by a club official and the SJSL will use its authority to levy sanctions against any player, coach, team, team official, club or club official that is determined to have violated this position. It is also the intention of the SJSL to advise its league participants, including referees assigned to its competition, of this position and will undertake reasonable steps to promulgate it to its members. The League strongly believes that the spirit of sportsmanship must prevail in order to provide its players with a rewarding athletic experience.

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