

To: Coaches of Teams Entered in 2008 OPI Soccer Tournament
From: OPI Tournament Board
Subject: Zero Tolerance Policy

The Old Pueblo Invitational (OPI) Soccer Tournament has adopted a policy of “zero tolerance” with respect to dissent and/or referee abuse from coaches, players AND sidelines. We request your assistance in keeping yourself, your team and sideline in compliance so the referees do not have to stop the game during play.

After the game starts, if a referee hears dissent or verbal insults from the sideline about the referee or his/her assistant referees, the game will be stopped. The coach will be called to the touchline and receive a verbal warning. Please convey the consequences of further dissent/abusive comments to your sideline at that time.

If further dissent or referee abuse occurs, the game will be stopped and the offending individual(s) will be required to leave the premises. Your cooperation in helping the referee remove the offender(s) is expected. The game will continue after the removal, but ONLY IF the sideline can remain in control. Following the removal of ANY individual(s) from your sideline, any continued dissent or verbally abusive comments will end the game IMMEDIATELY and the offending team will be given a forfeit with a minimum recorded score of 2 – 0 in favor of the opponent. It is extremely important that you convey this information to everyone on your sideline.

If the offending behavior comes from a player on the field, the referee will use his or her yellow and red card as usual. The process described above is ONLY for controlling the sideline.

Each player caution and sendoff will result in the loss of 0.5 and 1.0 point in the tournament standings, respectively. Any spectator removal or player/coach ejection will result in zero sportsmanship points awarded to the affected team for that game.

I have read the above OPI Zero Tolerance Policy and agree to abide by its requirements.

Date: _____ Signature: _____ Title: _____

Region/Club: _____ U - ___ B / G Team: _____