

[Zero Tolerance Policy](#)

PSA Canada is fully committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants involved in its programs and activities. The Academy enforces a **zero-tolerance approach** toward any form of abuse, harassment, intimidation, or misconduct directed at match officials, players, coaches, staff, or spectators.

This policy applies to **all coaches, parents/guardians, family members, spectators, staff, and volunteers** participating in or attending PSA Canada programs, matches, and events.

[Policy](#)

Any individual found, following a review process, to have engaged in **abusive conduct toward a referee or match official**, whether verbal, non-verbal, or physical, may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with PSA Canada policies and the rules and procedures of **Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer**.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Formal written warnings
- Temporary removal from training or match environments
- Restrictions on attendance at PSA Canada activities
- Referral to governing bodies for further review

In serious or repeated cases, additional measures may be applied following a formal review.

[Policy Procedures](#)

If a referee determines that abusive behaviour has occurred, the referee may **temporarily suspend play** to address the situation.

The referee shall inform both team coaches of the reason for the stoppage and identify the source of the abusive behaviour where possible.

If the source of the abuse is a **coach**, the referee may issue a formal warning and advise that any further occurrence may result in abandonment of the match and submission of an incident report.

If the source of the abuse is a **spectator or supporter**, the responsible coach shall be asked to identify and instruct the individual to cease the behaviour or leave the playing area.

- If the abusive behaviour continues, the referee may **abandon the match** and submit a formal incident report for review.
- Following an abandonment, the referee shall notify the appropriate Referee Coordinator or Academy representative within **24 hours**.
- A written incident report shall be submitted within **72 hours** for review in accordance with PSA Canada and governing body procedures.
- PSA Canada will review all reports and determine appropriate action in alignment with Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer disciplinary frameworks.

Physical Abuse

In any instance involving **physical abuse or threats of physical harm**, referees are advised to prioritize safety and may contact local law enforcement where appropriate.

Governing Body Alignment

This policy is intended to complement and align with all applicable safeguarding, discipline, and zero-tolerance policies of **Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer**. In the event of any inconsistency, governing body policies shall prevail.

