

Ottawa City Soccer Club Zero Tolerance Policy

Last updated October 2025



The Ottawa City Soccer Club is a strong supporter of making sport safe for our youth. The Ottawa City Soccer Club supports the following program to help ensure the safety and enjoyment of soccer for all.

Policy

Any coach, team official, parent, grandparent or guardian judged by the Discipline Board to be guilty of abusive conduct toward a game official during a Club house league or competitive game will be reprimanded in writing. A second offense, during the same season, will result in the member being restricted from all services rendered by the Club including attendance at all soccer activities within the Club. In extraordinary cases, as determined by the Discipline Board, a member may be reinstated subject to a review hearing.

Policy Procedures

When a game official feels they are being abused, as per the scope of this policy, by either a coach or supporter, the official will be allowed to suspend the playing of the game. If the abuse is physical, the game official is advised to inform the coaches the game has been abandoned and then proceed with step 1.

The official will then verbally advise both coaches that the game has been stopped due to the abuse and inform both coaches as to the source of the abuse. If the source is one of the coaches, the official will advise the coach the next occurrence of a similar nature will result in an abandonment of the game and a report to the Club's Discipline Board will be sent in for review. If the source is a supporter, the appropriate coach will provide the name of the supporter, and the coach must advise the fan the next occurrence of a similar nature will result in abandonment of the game. A report to the Club's Discipline Board will be sent in for review. If the supporter is not associated with either team, both coaches are asked to speak to the supporter and ask the individual to leave.

Once the prescribed action has been completed, the game will restart with a dropped ball between the two teams at the location where the play was stopped. If the abuse continues, the official will be allowed to stop any further playing of the game and advise the coaches the game has been abandoned and a Special Incident Report will be forwarded to the Club's Discipline Board. The official must clearly indicate on the game sheet the game was abandoned due to abuse and if abandoned:

1. The game official must contact either the Club's Head Referee or General Manager to verbally report the incident within 24 hours.
2. A Special Incident Report, with the assistance of the Head Referee or a member of the Executive, if required, must be forwarded to the Club within 72 hours.
3. The Club's Discipline Chair will review and deal with the report as per club guidelines.
4. If the game was abandoned due to the conduct of a fan not associated with either team, the Executive will determine the status of the game.

