



# Humble-Area Football League

## REFEREE ABUSE POLICY

### Purpose of the Policy

This policy is being implemented to eliminate referee abuse, both physical and verbal, and to discourage public dissent of a referee. It is never acceptable to verbally or physically abuse referees in any situation. There are appropriate avenues for coaches or spectators to share concerns about the quality of officiating. The Referee Administrator is welcome to hear any constructive comments on referees.

**Verbal or physical abuse of referees is as unacceptable as verbal and physical abuse of players, parents and league officials.** The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal and physical abuse of referees is unacceptable and to adopt basic standard sanctions for improper conduct. This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always right and the adult spectator or coach is always wrong.

*See Texas Statutes regarding interaction on the field of play with an Official (22.01 section 3 & 42.01) PENAL CODE CHAPTER 22. ASSAULTIVE OFFENSES*

### HAFFL Policy on Referee Abuse

1. HAFFL Board Members shall, if necessary, intervene if a coach or spectator is verbally abusing a referee.
  - a. Handling general dissent is part of a referee's job. If the referee appears to be managing the dissent appropriately, no intervention is necessary.
2. All HAFFL members shall report any incident of abuse of referees to the HAFFL Executive Board. The report is to be made within 24 hours of the incident..
3. The HAFFL Executive Board will, upon investigating the incident and after hearing from all parties, shall implement appropriate discipline before the next scheduled game. The offending parent or coach shall be notified of the disciplinary action.
  - a. Any offense involving a coach will be referred to the Coaches Discipline Committee for review and appropriate sanctions.
  - b. Offenses involving a parent, member of the league or league staff can result in temporary or permanent expulsion from HAFFL game and practice sites.