



Zero Tolerance Policy

The Opeongo Minor Soccer Club (OMS) is a strong supporter of making sports safe for all soccer players. Verbal and physical abuse directed by or towards any game official, player, coach or spectator will not be tolerated. Accordingly, OMS has a Zero Tolerance Policy to help ensure the safety and enjoyment of all.

Policy

Any member, player, coach, parent, relative, or guardian determined by the OMS by a Review Committee, a gathering of three appointed OMS members, to be guilty of abusive conduct towards a game official, player, coach, or spectator during an OMS indoor or outdoor house league, select, representative or exhibition game, may result in **ALL** playing members of the immediate family in question, at the OMS's discretion, being deregistered from the Club. If de-registered, all fees will be forfeited to the Club.

Procedures for Game Official Abuse

When a game official feels that they are being abused, as per the scope of this policy, by either a coach or a spectator, the official may suspend playing of the game until the issue has been resolved:

- 1 The official will verbally advise both coaches that the game has been suspended due to the abuse, and inform both coaches as to the source of the abuse.
- 2 If the source is:
 - one of the coaches: the official will advise the coach of the abandonment of the game and that a report to the OMS will be sent in for review.
 - a spectator: the appropriate coach will provide the game official with the name of the spectator and that coach must advise the spectator that they are to remove themselves from the field area, but that they may stay at their car for the remainder of the game to retrieve their child. Further, an Incident Report will be forwarded to the OMS.
 - a spectator not associated with either team: both coaches are asked to speak to the spectator 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.

- 3 If the game continues without any further incident, the game official is advised to inform The Club's Head Referee that the game was temporarily suspended due to abuse towards a game official. Further, a note must be made on the game sheet that will be forwarded to the OMS office.
- 4 If the abuse continues, the official may stop any further playing of the game and advise the coaches that the game has been abandoned and that an Incident Report will be forwarded to the OMS. The official must clearly indicate on the game sheet the reason the game was abandoned.
- 5 If the abuse is physical in nature, the game official is advised to inform the coaches that the game has been abandoned and then proceed with steps below:
 - **Step 1**
The game official must contact the OMS Head Referee and a member of the Board of Directors to verbally report the incident within 24 hours of the incident. If necessary the Club will then report the matter to the District Association and/or the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA).
 - **Step 2**
A Referee Assault Report must be forwarded to the Club's Head Referee and District Association, through the OMS office, within 72 hours of the alleged incident.
 - **Step 3**
The District Soccer Association or OSA will review the matter and send a report to the OMS office regarding what, if any, measures are to be taken.
 - **Step 4**
If the game was abandoned due to the conduct of a spectator not associated with either team, the OMS Board of Directors will determine the status of the game.