

RE: RACIAL SLURS AND DEROGATORY COMMENTARY

The Soccer League would like to remind its members of the following:

- Read the Code of Ethics, FIFA Laws of the Game and the BCSA Fair Play Code.
- Sport involves respect for the opposition and game officials.
- Dissent from the team officials, players or spectators is unacceptable.

All participants in soccer will ensure that all activities are free from harassment and that they have a responsibility to refrain from any behavior that constitutes harassment.

Harassment is defined as a verbally uttered statement (or conduct or gesture) directed towards an individual or group of individuals, which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, malicious, threatening, degrading or offensive. Sanctions vary from an apology to an expulsion from membership.

Team officials are accountable and responsible for the behavior of their parents and supporters. Ensure that your fans are supportive, and when a referee requests you to control a fan, you must do so immediately. The referee should not have to ask you; this should have been done before the referee brings it to your attention. While positive team support is encouraged, parents and spectators should stay in the background.

Please note: when telling your player to mark an opposing player, simply refer to that player's jersey number.

Commenting about the color of an individual's skin or about his/her nationality, religion or personally insulting descriptions of that person is not only hurtful, it is absolutely unacceptable.

It is the responsibility of the team officials to educate their fans regarding the content of this document. Then the onus is on all who are in attendance, if they hear their players(s) making negative remarks, to immediately holler out at that player to "STOP IT!"

You might also consider removing that player from the field.

If the Soccer League Discipline Committee receives a report from the referee it will likely require a hearing and if your player is found at fault there will be a severe suspension levied.

There can be no innocent bystanders when there is a commitment by the teams; their team officials and spectators to be respectful to all.

Everyone deserves to go home having had a good experience.

Submitted by the BC Coastal Soccer League Discipline Committee