

## **APPENDIX G (from GSC Policies and Procedures)**

### **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

#### **Rationale**

The Georgetown Soccer Club (GSC) is a strong supporter of making sport safe and fun for all our members, irrespective of age or type of membership. Over the last few years, abuse of game officials and team officials has been on the increase in several sports, including soccer. Accordingly, the GSC has approved the following policy and procedures to help ensure the safety and enjoyment of all.

#### **Policy**

Any team official, game official, parent, grandparent, guardian or independent spectator determined by the GSC Discipline Committee to be guilty of harassment or abusive conduct towards others in soccer related activities taking place under the jurisdiction of the GSC will be reprimanded in writing. For the sake of this policy, with the exception of team and game officials, all non-playing attendees at the game are regarded as spectators.

A second conviction during the same season will result in all playing members of the immediate family in question being de-registered from the GSC. In the case of physical abuse or other extreme cases, as determined by the Discipline Committee, the de-registration process may be applied after the first offence. This policy applies to all attendees at the activity. The Discipline Committee will determine the return of registration fees, if any, less an administration fee.

If the offended party is a game official and he/she feels that they are being harassed or abused, as per the scope of this policy, by either coach or spectator, the official is advised to suspend the playing of the game. The official will then verbally notify both coaches that the game has been suspended due to the harassment/abuse and inform both coaches as to the source of it.

If the source is one of the coaches, the official will advise the offending coach that the next occurrence of a similar nature will result in abandonment of the game and that a report to the GSC Director of Complaints will be sent for review.

If the source is a spectator, the appropriate coach will provide the official with the name of that individual and the coach must advise this person that the next occurrence of a similar nature will result in the abandonment of the game. Further, that a report will be sent to the GSC Director of Complaints for review.

If the fan is not associated with either team, both coaches are to approach the individual and ask them to leave.

The game will restart with a dropped ball between the two teams at the location where the play was stopped as per the Laws of the Game.

If the game is abandoned, the official must clearly indicate on the game sheet that the game was abandoned due to harassment or abuse and follow the steps outlined below.

N.B.: If the abuse is physical, the game official is required to inform the coaches that the game has been abandoned and then contact the referee coordinator within 24 hours for further action. Any incidents of physical contact with a game official must be reported on a Referee Assault Form and sent to the Peel Halton Soccer Association (P.H.S.A.) with copies to the GSC Director of Complaints.

1: The game official must contact the referee coordinator the same or next day who, in turn, will report the incident to the GSC Director of Complaints within 24 hours.

2: A special incident report must be written, with the assistance of the referee coordinator or a member of the Executive, if required, and then forwarded to the GSC Director of Complaints within 72 hours.

3: The GSC Discipline Board in conjunction with the Director of Complaints will then review and deal with the report as per their guidelines.

4: If the game was abandoned due to the conduct of a spectator not associated with either team, the Executive will determine the status of the game.

5: The offended official will be advised via the referee coordinator as to the outcome of the review in 3) above.

If the game continues without any further incident, the game official is required to inform the referee coordinator that the game was temporarily suspended due to harassment or abuse toward them. Further, a note must be made on the game sheet to that effect.

If the offended party is not a game official and feels that they have been abused, they are advised to submit a written report to the Director of Complaints detailing the incident within 72 hours. The GSC Director of Complaints will review the incident and take appropriate action according to the appropriate guidelines. The offended party will be advised of the outcome of the review but will not be informed of specific detailed information, e.g. that the offender has been reprimanded but not the specific details of the reprimand.

