



## HURLSTONE PARK WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

# HURLSTONE PARK WANDERERS POLICY REGARDING BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS MATCH OFFICIALS

Hurlstone Park Wanderers embraces all aspects of the FIFA fair play policies.

In particular we have a zero tolerance towards abuse of match officials, referees and their assistants.

This applies across all games at all levels of competition at all times. We will strictly enforce this policy and investigate ALL reports of intimidating behaviour by anyone towards referees.

For more details of our policy see below:

Hurlstone Park Wanderers has a well-established program for training mini-refs who officiate the u6-u9 games at Ewen Park, under supervision of our ground officials. We want these mini-referees to graduate to become CDSRA referees. To do so they need to develop their confidence.

Each year, the CDSRA trains more than 100 new referees, mostly juniors and each year, around 30% of them drop out, mostly the younger members.

**The main reason junior referees leave the sport is the bad behaviour of parents, team officials and senior players. These young members of the football community are subject every season to abuse and intimidation, which, in the end, puts them off returning.**

HPW takes seriously its responsibility to keep these young referees in the system, and give them the chance to develop their skills. Most young referees across the Association are players from ours and other clubs.

They are our children, or our fellow club members' children. We need to look after them. It is our responsibility to give them the time and space to learn the refereeing role.

Hurlstone Park Wanderers aims to set an example in demanding the highest standard of behaviour from our players, team officials and parents towards the CDSRA match officials.

This includes questioning, intimidating or abusing junior match officials.

It applies across all games at all levels.

We will strictly enforce the zero tolerance policy in relation to dissent to match officials. We will investigate and act on ALL reports of intimidating behaviour by anyone towards referees.



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We will particularly treat as a serious offence any questioning, intimidating or abusing of junior match officials.

What may seem like a high spirited comment made in the heat of the game, when made by someone 30 years your senior, may be enough to break the confidence of a young person, and is never ever helpful.

- The referee is in charge of the game and should not be challenged by players, team officials or spectators.
- The Assistant Referees report **only** to the referee. *They should NOT be spoken to by coaches, managers, players or spectators.*
- All members of our club (players, parents, team officials) have signed a code of conduct. This is a commitment to appropriate behaviour at all times.
- Most Assistant Referees in CDSFA are minors (yours or someone else's children). As a club we are committed to our duty of care to all minors involved in the game.
- Coaches, Managers and parents set the example that young players will follow. Everyone must treat all match officials with complete respect.
- Remember it is only a game. The Referee/Assistant Referees will sometimes call it differently from how you saw it (as a player, spectator or coach), but you were almost certainly wrong. And once the call is made, it has been made, and should not be questioned. It is never helpful to do this, and there are almost no calls at any level of football that change the result of the game.
- Questioning of calls, even in an apparently light hearted way, can be intimidating and amounts to abuse of the Assistant Referees and will not be tolerated.
- *We encourage all Assistant Referees to report any intimidating or abusive comments from players, team officials or spectators to their senior referee and to ground officials. Such behaviour will be penalised in line with the CDSFA rules. Spectators who abuse referees will be asked to leave the ground.*
- The CDSRA has set in place supervision, training and mentoring of referees. The only feedback to junior referees about their performance should be from other members of the CDSRA. It is not helpful and more than likely harmful for anyone else to provide other feedback.
- It is up to us as players, parents, team officials and spectators to give the junior referees the opportunity to learn their role without negative comments from people who should know better.
- If you hear another spectator intimidating a referee please report it to the ground official.
- It is not your place to give feedback to the referees on their performance after the game, unless it is to say "thank you".