

NEVADA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

SECTION 16

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST ABUSE

- 16:01:00 NYSA is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting its participants and ensuring their safety and well-being while involved in sponsored activities.
- 16:02:00 To this end, NYSA has established the following guidelines of behavior and procedures for its players, coaches, officials, parents, staff, volunteers and all other participants. All members of this organization, as well as spectators and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.
- A. Abuse of any kind is not permitted within NYSA. This means NYSA will not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from its players, coaches, officials, staff, volunteers, parents
 - B. We want to empower our children to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns, fears and hopes are important by listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface
 - C. We encourage parents to become as active as possible in attending sponsored activities, games, practices and other events. The more the parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop.
 - D. We will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the organization's directors. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly. or spectators.
 - E. Physical or sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, or any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited.
 - F. Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, religion, nationality/ethnicity, gender or age.
 - G. NYSA is committed to providing a safe environment for its players, coaches, officials, staff, parents, and volunteers. NYSA does so by appointing all coaches, officials, staff and volunteers -and anyone else affiliated with the organization -as protection advocates. Every member of this organization is responsible for reporting any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward its members by any player, coach, official, staff, volunteer, parent, or spectator.

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- H. **Buddy System:** NYSA recommends that during every sponsored activity a Buddy System be put in place. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere -to the bathrooms, locker rooms, or other location -without his or her buddy.
- I. To further protect youth participants, as well as coaches, officials, staff and volunteers, NYSA strongly advises that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, NYSA recommends that coaches or other adult members of this organization:
 - a. Do not drive alone in the car with a child participant who is not their own.
 - b. Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other any other private room.
 - c. Provide one-on-one training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or the child's buddy.
 - d. If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of in a private office.
 - e. Coaches and other adult members of this organization should not socialize individually with the participants outside of sponsored activities.
- J. **Supervision/Chaperone ratio:** NYSA recommends that for any sponsored activity, the ratio of adults to youth participants be at least 1:8, one (1) (or more) adults for every eight (8) children, with a minimum of two (2) adults for every activity.
- K. When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of same gender and similar age group, with chaperones in separate but nearby rooms.
- L. NYSA wants to empower its youth players to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns, fears and hopes are important by adults listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.
- M. NYSA encourages parents to become as active as possible in attending sponsored activities, games, practices and other events. The more the parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop.
- N. NYSA will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the organization's directors. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly.
- O. Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the Board until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person who is

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accused but later cleared of charges may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he/she will be reinstated to his/her former position.

- P. NYSA promotes good sportsmanship throughout the organization and encourages qualities of mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance in all players, coaches, officials, staff, parents and volunteers. NYSA advocates building strong self-images among the youth participants. Children with a strong self-image may be less likely targets for abuse; similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully others around them.