



Zero Abuse Campaign Launches!

Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) launches a Zero Abuse campaign to improve the sporting environment for all participants

GLENWOOD, MD (May 5, 2022): Recruiting and retaining referees has reached a critical point at least in part due to the verbal abuse that referees are subjected to on an increasingly frequent basis. To confront this problem and to improve the sporting environment for all participants within Maryland and the District of Columbia (DC) the Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) today announced a Zero Abuse campaign.



ZERO ABUSE

MSYSA Executive Director Greg Smith said, "Working together, a concerted and impactful effort can be made to dramatically enhance the experience of our referees, and ultimately, of all involved."

As the highest administrative authority for the amateur youth sport of soccer within Maryland and DC, MSYSA administers multiple programs and events each year in addition to serving a membership of more than 180 affiliate clubs and leagues registering more than 63,000 players in addition to thousands of coaches, team managers, and administrators.

MSYSA will take a communal approach to bring about these desired improvements, Smith explained. Coaches, clubs, leagues, and tournaments, have each been asked to play an important role in amplifying the message of Zero Abuse. A roadmap document

designed to outline the various ways that each stakeholder can contribute was created and shared with the stakeholders.

Smith went on to say, "We must all commit to working together in support of our referee community to ensure that participation in the beautiful game is a positive experience for all."



"While we do not expect the environment to change overnight," said Mark Cantor, MSYSA President, "We believe that the intelligent, holistic design of our Zero Abuse campaign creates the greatest opportunity for sustained improvements, and we look forward to the future!"

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About MSYSA:

MSYSA is a member of the US Soccer Federation as a National State Association and is affiliated with US Youth Soccer. MSYSA serves as the primary advocate for youth soccer in the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. MSYSA is dedicated to offering the highest quality soccer education, player development, and programs while fostering sportsmanship, fitness, diversity, teamwork, and passion for the game. Learn more at msysa.org or on Facebook (@MDStateYouthSoccer), TikTok (MarylandSYSA), and Twitter (@MSYSA).