**A green shield with a football ball and palm tree

Description automatically generated**

**Referee/Player Zero Tolerance Policy**

* **There is a statewide Zero Tolerance policy toward referee abuse. In alignment with that policy, Spectators and Coaches are not allowed to abuse a referee or player verbally or physically during a youth soccer match of Spartanburg United Soccer Academy**
* **This includes but is not limited to: yelling about calls on the field, yelling at players on the field, approaching a referee, and any other items deemed to be abusive toward the referee or the players.**
* **If there is a violation of this policy during the match by a spectator/coach, the referee will give the coach a warning for the team. The coach must convey this to their team’s spectators.**
* **If there is a second violation during the match by *ANY* spectator, the referee will pause the game, tell the coach the offending spectator must leave the field, the game will not resume until the violator is gone. If they refuse to leave, the game will be abandoned.**
* **If there is a second violation during the match by the coach, the referee will pause the game and inform the coach they must leave the field. If they refuse to leave, the match will be abandoned.**
* **If you have an issue with an official, you will bring it to your coach who will follow the proper channels for a grievance.**
* **Spartanburg United penalties for Violators of this policy:**

**First offense: Verbal warning**

**Second offense: Two game ban/suspension**

**Third offense: Banned/Suspended from all club activities for the season.**

**A fourth offense in a subsequent season will result in a lifetime ban from all club activities.**

* **Competitive Travel teams will additionally be subject to the SCYS Zero Tolerance policy violation rules.**