

# ABUSE OF OFFICIALS POLICY

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It is the desire of the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) Board of Directors to collaborate with schools where excessive verbal and/or any physical abuse or threat of physical abuse of officials has occurred to provide a safe and more positive climate for all participants.

The TASO Board has adopted the following policy to combat the drastically increasing rate of excessive verbal and physical abuse (any level) of our members officiating junior/middle and high school athletic contests:

## SECTION 1

The TASO Staff will review every Incident Report (IR) submitted.

At any point during a school year, if in any and all sports, an individual school receives:

(A) three (3) submitted Incident Reports, indicating excessive verbal abuse and/or physical abuse, including threats of physical abuse, directed toward the officials by any combination of players, coaches (of that game/match), or spectators:

OR

(B) one (1) submitted Incident Report, indicating excessive verbal abuse and/or physical abuse, including threats of physical abuse, directed towards the officials, by a game administrator, coach (not coaching in the game/match), athletic director, superintendent, school board member or other school employee:

If the criteria of either paragraph A or paragraph B are met, then the IRs will be presented to the TASO Presidents Council, consisting of the presidents of the Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, and Water Polo Divisions to review the Incident Reports.

- If a majority of the Presidents Council deems that the IRs demonstrate a culture of failing to control the players, coaches, staff, or spectators by the school:
  1. The Chair of the Presidents Council will notify the TASO Executive Director, or his/her designee, of the Council's determination.
  2. The TASO Executive Director or his/her designee will notify the school's athletic director and/or superintendent requesting that the school respond with a detailed plan to control the unruly conduct of their players, coaches, or spectators within seven (7) days from the date of the notice.

3. The Presidents Council will review the school's response and determine:

- If the school's plan will adequately address the issues, the TASO Executive Director or his/her designee will so advise the school and continue to monitor for additional IRs.
- If the schools plan is not sufficient to control the unruly behavior or the school fails to respond, the TASO Executive Director, or his/her designee, will so advise the school and include recommended revisions.

4. For schools that ignore or fail to effectively address their negative culture of abuse, a notification will be sent indicating that effective on a certain date there will be no TASO officials, in any sport, assigned to home games for that school until the issues are satisfactorily addressed.

## SECTION 2

To avoid unjustified Incident Reports filed by our members:

1. TASO will monitor the number and type of Incident Reports filed by our members.
2. If a member submits an excessive number of unjustified reports, TASO will review all reports filed by the member.
3. If it is determined the member has filed a number of unjustified Incident Reports, he/she will receive additional training on filing Incident Reports, and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Questions should be directed to Michael Fitch, TASO Executive Director, 214-390-5352, [mfitch@taso.org](mailto:mfitch@taso.org).