

VALLEY UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE

DRAMSC

PMSC

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GREEN ARMBAND INITIATIVE

In order to combat match official abuse, VUSL, like many hockey organizations, is instituting the Green Armband initiative in 2025.

Referees aged 17 and younger will be identified by a neon green armband. This is a clear visual reminder that most of our referees are minors and still are learning the game and how to officiate it. VUSL will not tolerate any abuse, either verbally or physically,

directed at our referees whether by players, team officials, or spectators. Match official assault is a very serious offense which is handled directly by the district.

Team officials and clubs are responsible for their spectators. Referees are not permitted to speak with spectators, so if a referee speaks to you about any issues, you are responsible to address it with the spectator. If unacceptable behavior continues by anyone after warnings have been conveyed, referees are authorized to abandon games and submit an incident report.

While referees may not engage spectators, they are allowed to caution and dismiss team officials. Referees will be reminded that they have this authority and the support of the league to follow through on it, but to also be mindful of not abusing that authority and to use it judiciously. Again, most of the refs are children and the league is focused on players and referees alike learning skills that will carry through into adulthood and make them wiser, stronger, and more confident.