

MEMORADUM

TO: All Affiliates

From: Chris Branscome, CEO

Date: June 20, 2011

CC: Board of Directors, Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer
Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association Referee Committee

RE: Sportsmanship and Discrimination

I regret to report that two separate incidents of racism have been reported in Eastern Pennsylvania. One report is clearly too many. Racism is not to be tolerated regardless, but when these acts are committed towards our children, it is infinitely reprehensible.

The acts as reported have come from other children on the field as well as from adults on the sidelines. Use of racist or any other discriminatory or hate language must stop. In this regard, we cannot allow for our children to play in a hostile or intimidating environment. It is up to all of us to monitor these situations on our home or away fields.

We recommend that any incident of this nature is reported to the referee to include in their game report, regardless of the referee or assistant referees witnessing. In accordance with Article VII, section G of the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Arbitration rules, Conduct Detrimental to the Good and Welfare of the Game ; “ ... **such misconduct shall include but shall not be limited to misbehavior while a spectator...**” Section M of the Arbitration Rules addresses that incidents of misconduct at tournaments shall be penalized in accordance with our rules as well.

Racism is addressed at the highest levels of the game by FIFA. Incidents of racism are met with severe penalties ranging from exorbitant fines to suspensions and bans from the game. We urge you all to act with greater sensitivity and civility and remember the great responsibility we have to the children