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**MARLBORO SOCCER ASSOCIATION ESTABLISH RICARDO PORTILLO REFEREE PROTECTION RULE**

*New Rule Establishes a No Tolerance Policy for Conduct towards a Referee*

**Marlboro, NJ, May 6, 2013 –** In response to the tragic event in Utah that resulted in the death of Ricardo Portillo, a recreational soccer referee, the Marlboro Soccer Association (MSA) has established a new program rule which is effective immediately. Named in honor of Mr. Portillo, the *Ricardo Portillo Referee Protection Rule* institutes a no tolerance policy with regard to the conduct of those involved in a game (children, coaches and parents) towards a referee.

“Marlboro Soccer Association is taking an immediate, strong, stand to protect our referees, many of whom are children,” said Murray Karp, President, Marlboro Soccer Association. “We have an epidemic in youth sports across the country of intolerable behavior towards referees. As a result of the horrible tragedy that occurred in Utah, our organization is taking a proactive stand against this sort of behavior and hope that others across the country will follow suit.”

**Ricardo Portillo Referee Protection Rule:**

Effective May 5, 2013, the MSA has instituted a no tolerance policy with regard to the conduct of those involved in a game towards any referee. As such, any parent, coach or player who is thrown out of a game for verbally or physically intimidating, abusing or assaulting any referee will be banned from watching, coaching or playing in the MSA indefinitely. The party breaking this Portillo Rule will have the opportunity to address the disciplinary committee should they seek that.

The Marlboro Soccer Association administers both Recreation and Travel Soccer programs for boys and girls from Kindergarten through High School in the town of Marlboro, NJ.

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