

Hello Soccer in the Sand,

Thank you for participating in our annual Grand Haven Soccer in the Sand tournament. This event has been created with the intention of family and soccer enthusiasts coming together at the beach to create memories for families and friends while enjoying the great game of soccer. It is extremely important that all participants, coaches and spectators know that Soccer in the Sand, the DNR and City of Grand Haven will have a ZERO TOLERANCE for any fighting, violent acts, racial or derogatory comments.

We have a certified referee assignor, along with the local police, and Soccer in the Sand staff that will be closely monitor behavior throughout the event. In the event that any conduct that has been above mentioned is witnessed by any referee or tournament official, your TEAM will be ejected from the event and no refunds will be given. Your team will forfeit all games played as well as future games. It is your responsibility to make sure that your players and parents understand this policy. This email is being sent out to all managers and coaches, please pass this information onto all of your players and parents.

Regarding referee treatment throughout the event please see statement from our Referee Assignor:

“Communication within our state is pretty clear when it comes to referee abuse. I have seen it first hand, and last year we had a few incidents where we had folks yelling at refs. If I happen to be a witness of said event, I will be removing that person myself. If they do not leave upon my instruction, I will relay the information to the coaches that the game is not going to re-start until said individual leaves the area. (clock is still running) At that point, I am putting the requirement on them to remove the individual. If we still have an issue, we as the ref crew will abandon the match.”

We will play rain or shine this weekend and only pause play in the event of lightning.

We are looking forward to another great weekend! Again, thank you for your support and we will see you all out on the beach.