



Code of Ethics for Referees

You, as a referee, are charged with the following:

- a) Insuring fairness by enforcing the rules & laws of the game
- b) Minimizing the possibility of injury to all involved
- c) Controlling the conduct of the game
- d) Controlling the temperament of the crowd

Therefore, as a good soccer referee, you **MUST**:

- 1. Have a good understanding of the rules, rule changes & mechanics of officiating
- 2. Be on time for the game. Allow enough time for a pre-game conference with your fellow official(s) and to cover all pre-game duties properly.
- 3. Be proud of your appearance - LOOK and ACT like a referee.
- 4. Be well equipped with a coin, whistle, watch, red & yellow cards, rulebook, game card & pencil. These are absolute necessities.
- 5. Be prepared to be physically in the game and mentally alert. Stay on top of the play, but out of the way.
- 6. Do not smoke on or around the field. As for alcohol & drugs - DON'T!!
- 7. Do not use abusive language or profanity at any time.
- 8. Address all players by their numbers and coaches by the title "Coach", "Sir", "Mrs.", etc. Never use first names while performing as a referee.
- 9. Do not socialize with the coaches, players, or fans immediately before, during or after a game. Stay with your fellow official(s).
- 10. Present an air of authority (not superiority). Respect the coaches and players and inform them you expect the same in return. Always be courteous and considerate, but do not sacrifice firmness.
- 11. Always deal firmly with actions that could result in injury to a player. You will maintain control of the game by good refereeing.
- 12. Do not place your hands on a player when he/she appears to be highly agitated. Player may misconstrue the action and become aggressive.
- 13. During and/or after the game, do not make statements to players, coaches or spectators about the game except to clarify a rule interpretation.
- 14. Never hesitate to explain rules & calls, but only at appropriate times.
- 15. Maintain your "cool" with an irate coach, player or parent. **DO NOT ARGUE!** You cannot win.
- 16. Be professional with fellow officials. **DO NOT** discuss other officials with coaches. Constructive criticism must be directed in private to the official concerned.