

Fair & Reasonable Expectations Between Soccer Coaches and Referees

February, 2019

This list is the result of constructive dialogue between Madison Area Youth Soccer Association Coaches and Referees. Both groups agree that they can each mutually agree upon these items in an effort to minimize negative game day episodes. In addition, they wish to emphasize that the Assignor should be used as a conduit for feedback and mentoring.

Coaches have these expectations of Referees	Referees have these expectations of Coaches
1. Know the Laws of the Game	
This includes special adaptations for age levels (e.g., Build Out Line for Under 9 & 10, no heading for Under 11 and younger) and/or competitions.	
2. Be on time, have a professional appearance, have/wear/use the right equipment. A good first impression sets the right tone. Do not use a phone for time-keeping. Check the field for readiness/safety.	2. Be prepared to play the game: home team should have a game ball ready and referee fees ready. All coaches provide coach pass (and/or an ID), rosters and player pass cards and organize for equipment check. Jewelry (except for medical alert) is not allowed and that's a decision set forth by FIFA.
<i>Referees check/verify rosters and (when applicable) player pass cards. If there is a question about the age or gender of a player that should be addressed in a written report – not an objection at the field and never addressed with the players.</i>	
3. Communication is key – brief and congenial communication is extremely helpful. Be constructive, avoid opinions.	
Use arm signals to convey direction of restart and type of foul (i.e., direct or indirect). Blow whistle loud enough to hear. More experienced referees who briefly explain calls – that is helpful but should not be expected.	Asking referees about calls, decisions, etc. during the match is not something coaches are entitled to as it creates game management challenges. “Helping” referees with calls is not helpful at all. Coaches should stay within the technical area. Asking a referee for his/her name or badge # and insisting “I will report you” is considered threatening.
4. Use established reporting mechanisms – never confront anyone at the field.	
Feedback or opinions about a player, coach or group of spectators should be shared directly with MAYSA via the online game report in Game Officials.	If coaches have feedback about a referee, that should be submitted via a link available at Madison Area Soccer Referees Unit website (masru.org).
5. Maintain Impartiality – fraternizing with one coach, team or group of spectators before, during or after the game invites a great deal of scrutiny.	5. Referees vary – each referee will have his/her own interpretation of a given call and will do their best.
6. Manage the Match and Keep it Safe – in general, if you see a foul call a foul. If there are concerns about spectators, ask the coach or manager to address this issue immediately. It is reasonable to stop/pause the game for this issue.	6. Maintain control of yourself, players and spectators – coaches who stay within the technical area and maintain composure help make the match safer and belonging to the players. Coaches, players and spectators also play a significant role in keeping the game safe and enjoyable. Upon the referees' request, coaches are expected to deal with unruly spectators.
7. “Big Picture” – it is just a game, not the World Cup Final	
Referees are not perfect, coaches are not perfect and players are not perfect. Mistakes will be made and should be expected. A referee generally does not “cost us the game” and coaches are generally supportive of the referees. Making the game safe and enjoyable for EVERYONE is a worthwhile objective.	