



# NJ State Referee Committee Continuing Education Program

## Dealing with Coaches/Team Officials and Spectators

As a reminder, this session is being recorded.

Continuing Referee Education

# Dealing with Coaches /Team Officials

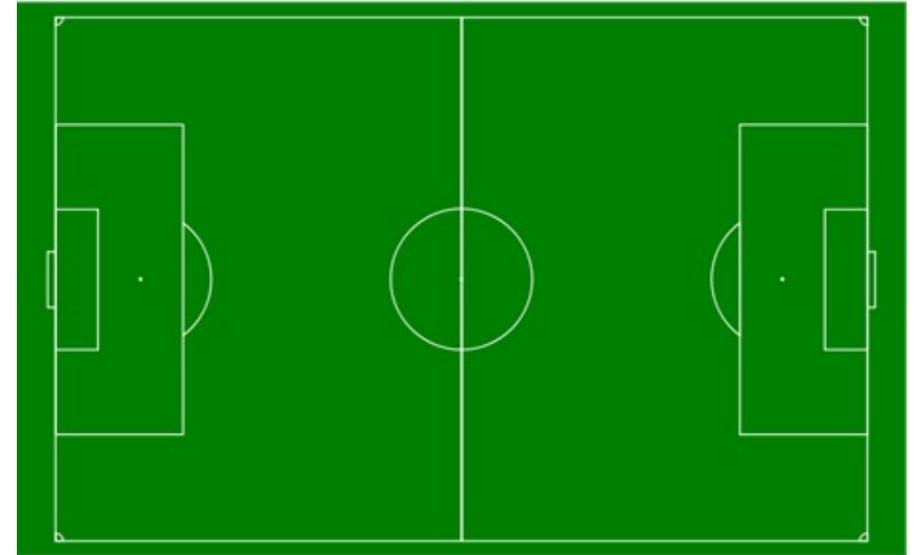


# The Referee - Dealing with Team Officials

- Who are “Team Officials”?
  - Any non-player listed on the official team list e.g. coach, physiotherapist, doctor (the number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules).
- Team Officials must act **responsibly**.
  - Law 5 – Referee Power and Duties states: Takes action against team officials who fail to act in a **responsible manner** and warns or shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. A medical team official who commits a sending-off offence may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention.
  - **How do we put this into practice?**

# Technical Area

- Set this up before the game.
- Let the coaches know where that is.
- Use players' bags/cones in that area.
- AR1/4<sup>th</sup> Official - you must monitor this!
- Empower AR1 and 4th
- PREGAME



Technical Areas

Technical area should only extend 1 m (1 yd) on either side of the designated seated area and up to a distance of 1 m (1 yd) from the touchline.

# Identifying Dissent

- Situation: Referee calls a foul against the defending team in its defensive third ". Defending coach pops up and yells, "Ref, what was that!" Dissent?
- Situation: Same call, defending coach is 10 yards onto the field and screaming about the call. Dissent?
- Referees must learn to anticipate emotional situations and give appropriate leeway to coaches displaying that emotion within reason.

# Identifying Dissent

Coaches want to feel that you are protecting their players:

- Before reacting to comments from the sidelines, consider the circumstances.
  - Are you allowing too much or too little contact?
  - Is one player being persistently fouled?
  - Is one player persistently fouling?
  - Are your calls favoring one team because of history or style of play?
  - Are you interrupting the flow of the game?
  - Basically, do the coach's comments have merit?

# Identifying Dissent – The Five P's

## “Personal”

- “You’re the worst referee I’ve ever seen.”
- “ Hey Lino what kind of call was that!”
- “Sweetie, Sweetheart, Hun”

## “Public”

- You’re standing near the coach for a throw-in and he asks you “Hey, what was that last call?”
- You’re 90 yards away from a coach and he screams across the field, “WHAT WAS THAT”.

## “Persistent”

- Ongoing comments that do not meet one of the previous four standards.
- Nearly every call is questioned.
- Constant small comments detract from your attention to the game.

Identifying Dissent – The Five P’s that raises this to offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)

### Provocative”

- Anything referring to gender, race, sexuality
  - “Girls shouldn’t be doing boys’ games.”
  - “You’re only calling that because they look like you” .
  - “That fa\*\*ot AR always misses our offside calls.
  - “Enough of the gender equality experiment”

### “Profane” Actions exceed the boundaries

- “That was a sh\*\*ty call, ref.”
- “What the f\*\*\* was that”.

## Can't We Just Ignore It?

- Does ignoring dissent lead to further dissent and other problems?
- What if it's the AR/4th ignoring problems?

## Consequences of Dissent

- If it continues it will escalate in your game **and** in future games.
- Coaches dictate tone of the match for players.
- Dissent from coaches drives dissent from spectators.

# Team Officials - Disciplinary Action

There are 3 levels of disciplinary sanctions and the corresponding offences are listed in Law 12:

- Warn: Warning
- Caution: Yellow card
- Send-off: Red card

## Team Officials – Warning

- Entering the field of play in a respectful and non-confrontational manner.
- Failing to cooperate with a match official  
e.g. ignoring an instruction or request from an assistant referee or the fourth official.
- Minor or low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision.
- ***Occasionally*** leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence.

## Team Officials – Caution

- Clearly or persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area.
- Delaying the restart of play by their team.
- Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (**non-confrontational**).
- Dissent by word or action including throwing or kicking drinks, bottles, or other objects (**but not onto field**).

## Team Officials – Caution

### **Additional Cautionable Behaviors:**

- Gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match officials, e.g. sarcastic clapping.
- Excessively or persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card.
- Gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner.
- Persistent unacceptable behavior (including receiving repeated warnings).
- Showing a lack of respect for the game.

## Team Officials – Sending Off

- Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):
  - Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player.
  - Deliberately leaving the technical area to: Show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official. Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner.
  - Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
  - Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play.
  - Entering the field of play to: Confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time). Interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official.

## Team Officials – Sending Off

- Entering the video operation room (VOR).
- Physical or aggressive behavior (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.).
- Receiving a second caution in the same match.
- Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s).
- Using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment.
- Violent conduct.

# Unidentified Offender

From **Law 12**: The referee...

**If the offender cannot be identified, the senior team/head coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.**

## AR/Referee Teamwork

- ARs need to follow the same guidelines as Referees when dealing with coaches' dissent even if this dissent is not apparent to the referee.
- Referees need to support their ARs. In virtually no situation should the Referee fail to deal with a coach that the AR has called them over to deal with.
- Referees should be aware of touchline behavior and take proactive steps to intervene...particularly when working with youth or less experienced assistants.

Think about this!

- Every Referee has a unique personality. Every Coach has a unique personality. Following guidance just given creates consistency game to game and takes personality out of the equation.”
- “Once you show that your determination to manage the game is greater than the player’s or coach’s determination to destroy it, you will most likely turn a difficult game into a considerably easier one.”

# Match Report and or Supplemental

- If referee issues a warning, caution or a send off it must go into the match report.
- If it escalates into Referee/AR assault (physical contact) and Referee/AR abuse (threat of physical harm) MUST be reported to the SYRA, Assignor and the NJSRC on a USSF Supplemental Report.
- This is NOT optional **Law 5 is clear** the referee keeps a record of the match and provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, including information on disciplinary action and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match.
- For more information go to the RESOURCES tab at NJRefs.com

# Remember:

- Pregame
- Set Technical Area.
- Empower AR/4<sup>th</sup>.
- Do not have rabbit ears HOWEVER understand.....
- Deal with the issue.
- Set the tone.
- Team Officials must act **responsibly**.
- Warning – Caution –Send off.
- Personal – Public – Provocative - Persistent - Profane.
- Match Report and or Supplemental

# Dealing with Spectators



**"WE NEVER ENGAGE DIRECTLY WITH SPECTATORS"**

# Dealing with Spectators

- Coaches have the responsibility for their spectators in most youth matches.
- If spectators become a problem, stop the game and address the issue with the coaches.
- Do so professionally.
- If problem continues and the coach has tried, you have the power to stop, suspend or abandon.
- Follow Local Rules of Competition and write all the pertinent information in your game report.

***But how do we put this into practice?***

# Dealing with Spectators

- We stop play for Spectator Interference and request the Competition Authority (coaches for league games and coaches or tournament administrators at tournaments) to deal with it.
- We only abandon the match for unresolvable safety issues or if the Competition Authority fails to act.
- We **NEVER** engage directly with spectators.
- TELL – DIRECT – ABANDON
  - **TELL** the Competition Authority to manage them
  - **DIRECT** the Competition Authority to remove them
  - **ABANDON** if the Competition Authority fails to resolve

## Dealing with Spectators – Assistant Referee - PREGAME

- Set the rules...parents please stay back from the line.
- Do not engage.
- Do not take abuse.
  - Hey that player was not offside?
  - Hey what the F are you looking at?
- Get Referees' attention.
- Referee deals with the coach.
  - Coach you need to handle your fans.
- You have the clock.
- Be respectful.
- What happens when an AR is not supported!!!

## Match Report and or Supplemental

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# Remember

- Do not have rabbit ears HOWEVER understand.
- Deal with the issue.
- Set the tone.
- Spectators must not **interfere with the game.**
- We never deal directly with Spectators.
- Coaches to deal with Spectators.
- TELL – DIRECT – ABANDON.
- Match Report and or Supplemental

# Thank you!

## Open Discussion



