

Managing dissent from & misconduct by coaches and spectators

** Using humor and establishing rapport with coaches and players prior to the start of a game goes a long way twds gaining their cooperation and good will. Being respectful and professional with coaches, players, and sidelines often results in the same behavior from them.

Referees responsibilities:

- Communicate in positive manner w/ coaches, players before the game; be approachable, friendly
- Set clear expectations w/ coaches, players before the game begins - it's coaches' responsibility to manage their sidelines
- Model appropriate behavior before, throughout, & after the game
- To better manage the game, deal w/ inappropriate behavior promptly but respectfully & professionally
- Project confidence but not arrogance

Assistant referees:

- do not engage with spectators who are behaving inappropriately
- if verbal abuse or persistent loud dissent occurs, especially if the ref cannot hear the what's said or see the behavior, raise your flag at next stoppage of play, call the referee over to inform them, and they will address the behavior w/ the coach(es).

Before implementing Ask/Tell/Remove:

Sometimes a "look", a few words (e.g. "I've got this"), or holding a hand up towards the coach/sideline (while the game is still in play) will be enough to stop the inappropriate comments and behavior. If that doesn't work then move on to the following.

Ask/Tell/Remove:

- *Use your best judgment in these situations, go with the path of least resistance that allows as much playing time possible for the kids while managing the game so it doesn't turn into a free for all*

Ask:

As soon as you are aware of persistent, loud, negative comments from the sideline or coach, have a brief, private chat with the coach (backs turned to the sideline). *Leave out negative emotion and obvious irritation.*

Gain the cooperation of the coach - e.g. as Stewards of the Game (parents too) we're all responsible for providing a positive soccer experience for the kids. You can respectfully remind them that it's the coaches' responsibility to manage their sidelines. Keep it simple, brief, to the point.

If the coach is the problem, ask them to model respectful behavior for the sidelines and players. Thank the coach before resuming the game.

Tell/ Warn:

If the dissent or negative, inflammatory behavior continues from the coach after you asked them to behave appropriately, you can give them a warning.

If the unacceptable behavior doesn't stop after the warning was given, then calmly inform the coach that they will be cautioned and show the yellow card. Resume the game and don't engage in debate or a conversation with the coach

Remove:

If the coach continues with or escalates the unacceptable behavior, then show the red card and send them off. If a spectator(s) is causing the disturbance and cannot be identified then per AYSO rules, the coach receives the sanction (caution or send off).

If you can identify the spectator(s) causing the disturbance, or they are pointed out to you, and the coach has attempted to but is unable to quiet them, then suspend the game temporarily and eject the spectator(s).

In either case, the coach or spectator must leave the field, be "out of sight & sound", and cannot return to the field until the end of the game and the refs have left the field. (If necessary, summon a Board member or the Ref Admin to help manage the situation)

****ANY dissent or abuse directed towards a youth**

referee will not be tolerated (refer to Safe Haven and SafeSport principles under any circumstances

Repercussions for dissent or abuse to a youth referee may result in greater penalties and must be dealt with immediately

Procedure for send offs/ ejections

- Blow the whistle to stop the game, pick up the ball, and summon your AR's to join you
- Make it clear to whomever you are sending off/ ejecting that you are suspending the game and they have 3 minutes to leave the field (out of sight and sound) before the game will resume.
- If after the allotted time passes and they have not complied, terminate the match with three short whistles and calmly leave the field as a ref team. DO NOT get drawn into a debate, drawn out explanation, or argument with the coach or sideline.

Finally,

- any consistent, but low level, inappropriate/ negative behavior from coaches or sideline needs to be noted in the comment section on the back of the game card. This information is important so the RRA and Board can take any necessary action to prevent a recurrence of the problem with that coach or sideline.
- If you have cautioned (yellow card) or sent off (red card) a coach or ejected a spectator, you need to complete a Referee Game Report detailing the incident. The forms are located in marked folders in all coaches boxes. There is also a fillable pdf form of the Game Report on the 5 Cities AYSO website under the Referee Central tab, Links to referee resources/documents section.
- Best practice is to as soon after the game as is feasible, write down the names of those involved, what was said - "direct quotes" from the offender if possible - and done, at what approx point in the game the incident occurred, etc. Game Report forms are available in

marked folders in all coaches' boxes. Have the RRA or alternatively an Advanced Ref review the form before submitting.

***For post season tournaments, ask a field marshal or your AR to summon help from Area staff or the RRA at the tournament headqtrs tent if you're encountering any hostility from the sidelines or a refusal by coach or spectator to leave the field after being ejected/ sent off.*