

Points of Emphasis

2011

Protecting plays

Repeating Fouls

Offside

Holding in the Penalty Area

Simulation

Dissent

Touchline Behavior

Coaches and Dissent

A Primer for Youth Games

Consequences of Dissent

Dissent continues and escalates in that game
and in future games

Coaches dictate tone of the match for players

Dissent from coaches drives dissent from
spectators

Identifying Dissent

Emotional Game

Situation: Referee calls a foul in the attacking 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 Four P's

“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?”

Identifying Dissent – The Four P'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 offsides calls"

"Profane" Actions exceed the boundaries

"That was a sh**ty call, ref."

"What he f*** was that"

"Personal"

"You're the worst referee I've ever seen."

"What kind of call was that!"

Identifying Dissent – The Four P's Plus 1

“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

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.

Can't We Just Ignore It?

Does ignoring Dissent lead to further Dissent and other problems?

When it's the AR ignoring problems as well as the Referee

Dealing With Dissent

Tools

A Quiet Word

While near the coach during a stoppage of play, take the time to respectfully address his specific concern.

This works when the coach may be frustrated but is still under control.

“Coach, I had your player with the push on that one.”

“Okay coach, I understand you, I just saw it the other way.”

Then LEAVE

Dealing With Dissent

Tools

“Three Chances”

The first time the coach crosses your dissent threshold, say,
“Coach, I’m asking you to stop.” Then LEAVE.

If that doesn’t stop the dissent, the next time you say, “Coach I
asked you. Now I’m telling you, you have to stop.” Then
LEAVE.

The third time remove.

ASK>>>TELL>>>REMOVE

Dealing With Dissent

Tools

Cautioning a Coach

For the purposes of USSF and FIFA, can you display a card to a coach? NO.

However, most local leagues do allow showing the coach a card.

Mechanics:

Stop play.

Go over to the coach. Facing him, but maintaining a safe and respectful distance, display the card. This is not a time for further discussion.

Leave.

From an area near the restart, make whatever note you need in your book.

Restart the match.

Dealing With Dissent

Tools

Sending Off the Coach

Again, for the purposes of USSF and FIFA, can you display a card to a coach? NO.

Mechanics:

Stop play.

Go over to the coach. Facing him, but maintaining a safe and respectful distance, display the card. This is not a time for further discussion.

Leave.

Wait until the coach has left the sideline and surrounding area.

Make whatever note you need in your book.

Restart play.

Remember you have to write a report and submit it to the SRA, SYRA, league, and assignor.

Now What?

Caution every coach that doesn't agree with 100% of your calls?

Recognize the difference between emotion and dissent.

Ask yourself if coaches have a valid concern.

If so, modify your calls instead of punishing their comments.

Deal with the behavior before it becomes true dissent.

Use the least amount of discipline necessary to the situation.

REMEMBER

Emotion

Minus

Dissent

Equals...