



**OHIO SOUTH** STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE  
A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION



# Off the Field Control

Ohio South  
Intermediate Referee  
Training

# Off the Field Control

- Have you ever seen a game with an unruly coach or a fan?
- What did it do to the referee?
- What did it do to the game?



# Off the Field Control

Referees ... **When** do you deal with unruly coach or fan behavior?

Assistant Referees ...  
**When?**



Referees and AR's - **How** do you deal with such unruly behavior?

# Off the Field Control

- Do's ??
- Don'ts ??





# Off the Field Control

**DO** .....

As per Brian Hall (FIFA Referee and former Mgr of USSF Referee Training) ... Use

**Ask-Tell-Remove**  
**Approach**

# Off the Field Control Coaches

Advice for dealing with coaches...

## Ask-Tell-Remove Approach

1. Ask coach to behave
2. Tell coach their misbehavior will no longer be tolerated (change or else, their choice)
3. Ejection



# Ask-Tell-Remove Approach

**ASK** – Referee asks the coach to refrain from the poor behavior

- “Coach – please, I am refereeing the game. Let me do my job without your help.”
- “Coach – Please Shhh!”
- “Coach – I hear you, but please let me referee the game.”

# Ask-Tell-Remove Approach

**TELL** - Tell the coach their poor behavior will no longer be tolerated.

- “Coach - I am telling you your behavior is not acceptable. Please change it or I am going to have to take further action.”
- “Coach - the decision is yours.”

The coach decides what happens next - it's on their shoulders



# Ask-Tell-Remove Approach

**REMOVE** – the final step is ejection.

- “Coach – please leave the field. The match will not continue until you are gone. If you don’t leave, we will end the match.”
- You and your AR’s then walk to the center of the field and wait for the coach to leave.
- Coach doesn’t leave? You and your AR’s then leave the field and immediately call your referee assigner.

# Off the Field Control Fans and Parents

**Ask-Tell-Remove**  
Approach

# Ask-Tell-Remove Approach Fans and Parents

**ASK** - Ask the coach to deal with fans.

**NEVER, NEVER deal with fans yourself!**

"Coach - Please, you are responsible for the conduct of your fans. Their screaming is getting in the way of me doing my job (or the game). If it continues and no one deals with it, we have to suspend or terminate the game."

# Ask-Tell-Remove Approach

## Fans and Parents

- 'I'll give you a couple minutes to go over and tell your spectators to stop their dissent.'
- Knowing that if they don't deal with their team's spectators, the game can be terminated and their team could be punished with a loss ... the coach is forced to take action.
- The game is stopped as the coach walks all the way across the field - **the walk of shame**. The focus is now off the referee and on the coach and spectators.



# Off the Field Control Fans and Parents

Brian Hall's advice for  
dealing with fans ...

Same basic approach...

But have the coach  
deliver the message to  
parents....



1. Coach **asks or tells** the fans to behave
2. If the coach does not (or cannot) control their team's fans, game can be terminated.

# Bench Control

More Brian Hall advice for referees....

**DO** ... Deal with coach and fan misbehavior



1. Referees **MUST** protects their AR's.
2. Makes the game more enjoyable for everyone!

# Off the Field Control

**DON'T** .....

Over-React

Be Argumentative or Abusive

Yell or Finger Wag

Make Empty Threats

Ask Questions or Make Comments that  
invite a Reply

Be Over-Tolerant of Wrongful Comments



# Brain Teaser 10

You are the referee in a match where the fans are completely out of control. One of the fans is constantly yelling at your AR's (and you). You stop the match and ask the coach to go over and deal with their unruly fans. The coach makes the "walk of shame", talks to their fans and you restart the match. But the loudmouth fan continues to attack you and you AR's.

What do you do? (Choose one or more of the answers that are correct)

- A. Go over and show the loudmouth fan a Red Card
- B. Give the coach a Yellow Card
- C. Give the coach a Red Card
- D. Terminate the game and leave the field
- E. Ask the coach to tell the loudmouth fan to leave