

Referee and Coach Roundtable: Town and Country A, 3:00 PM, Saturday, March 26, 2022

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Bottom Line Up Front: The coach referee relationship could likely be improved at the regional level if a pre-season meeting between the two groups was arranged and the following 4 questions were discussed:

- 1) COACHES: What are some things about referees that you really dislike?
- 2) REFEREES: What are some things about coaches that you really dislike?
- 3) COACHES: What are some things about referees that you really appreciate?
- 4) REFEREES: What are some things about coaches that you really appreciate?

A good tactful moderator would be a wise choice!

Our roundtable involved about 35 volunteers. Over half were referees, slightly less than half were coaches and slightly less than half volunteered in both roles. About 1/3 of the attendees were referee instructors.

The above four questions were posed and a litany of complaints and compliments was developed over about 60 minutes (see list below). Then a brief attempt was made to address a couple of the items. The first was how to improve things, and the stock answer was more training. A concern was raised that coach instruction needs to include how to positively interact with referees. The group was then asked: "How to get a behavior change in arrogant referees and coaches?" Mentoring was the obvious answer, but then another idea was broached: Try having a meeting at the regional level with a group of such volunteers (carefully moderated) to see if a positive outcome can be made. Another idea was to have coaches rate the referees and referees rate the coaches as a tool for regional management.

COACHES DON'T LIKE REFS WHO:

- cannot keep up with play
- do not know the Laws
- coach their players (teaching is okay)
- do not communicate well
- are arrogant
- are unprofessional (slovenly for example)
- make selective calls
- physically & mentally incapable
- call a game that is "unsafe"
- interfere with the warm-up unnecessarily

COACHES DO LIKE REFEREES WHO:

- communicate well
- keep it safe
- are prepared
- keep up with play
- are consistent
- are confident
- mete out justice (fairness)
- are personable
- return the game balls

REFEREES DON'T LIKE COACHES WHO:

- questions all the calls (& non-calls)
- do not know the Laws
- have uncontrolled touchlines
- are negative
- are really too loud
- are arrogant
- are unprofessional
- come onto the field uninvited
- are "joy sticking" their players
- have poor sportsmanship
- use gamesmanship
- are unprepared

REFEREES DO LIKE COACHES WHO:

- are positive
- are organized (game card, fast substitution breaks)
- handles sideline issues proactively
- handles their own player's behavior issues
- exhibit sportsmanship
- are personable
- exhibit all the 6 AYSO philosophies