

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING A GOOD RAPPORT WITH PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS

In spite of what we may have seen occurring during the last World Cup, or what we may see in T.V. today, soccer is not a war, but a simple, fun , enjoyable game for all.

It is, incumbent upon us referees then to work hard to keep it that way. To do so, we must realize and accept the fact that we can only accomplish such a mission by
ESTABLISHING A GOOD RAPPORT WIRH PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS.

Rapport simply stated is establishing relationships. Remember , however, that a relationship is a two way thing. There will be no rapport till the other individual feels at ease.

Words alone won't do it. Your actions, your voice, your mannerism and your body must all indicate your good intentions.

Relationships are built upon trust, respect and understanding.

If you show defensiveness, you can only expect defensiveness. If you show indecisiveness, arrogance, stubbornness, fear of admitting you have been wrong, you will never obtain respect.

Do not restart that play with full knowledge you should have reversed your call. That it is not the way to earn respect and trust so crucial and vital to a good rapport in order for you to keep control of the game and management of the players.

AUTHORITY DOES NOT REST UPON POSITION OR RANK ALONE.

The black, red, yellow, blue or rainbow shirt and the whistle, the yellow and red cards **ONLY** give you the power, **NOT THE ABILITY**, to influence behavior.

If you face an angry player, coach or spectator, do not add fuel to the fire by arguing, shouting from the middle of the field , or to show your authority by becoming angry yourself. That way you may come out of the discussion a victor in your eyes, but, it is not likely you will be able to change or improve the other person's attitude.

He / she who shows thin skin in the presence of an adverse reaction to a call and angrily approaches the culprit, only shows feelings of insecurity, disappointment and resentment.

STAY CALM, SMILE AND DECISIVELY, BUT GENTLY, APPROACH THE INDIVIDUAL AND TALK TO HIM / HER SOFTLY. DO NOT INSULT, JUST EXPLAIN WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE SHOULD SUCH A BEHAVIOR CONTINUE. ALWAYS RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF COACHES

AND PARENTS. KIDS ARE WATCHING.

As a referee you are responsible for setting up and maintaining a state of order not in a militaristic model where fear may prevail, but after the example of a team where everyone has assigned roles to perform out of a desire to be mutually supportive.

Inspire enthusiasm and mutual respect rather than fear. Be impersonal in keeping order. take into account whether the adverse reaction or the dissent was intentional. NEVER,NEVER,NEVER take an infraction of discipline as a personal matter.

K.ASTON reminded all of us what Robert Frost said” a poem begins with a lump in the throat”. “Poets in our midst might shudder at the analogy “ K.Aston continued. Then he said that he always felt soccer games, at least where referees are concerned, should begin with similar physical feelings.” “ Whether it is a lump in the throat, goose bumps all over, or the thought that something really important is about to happen, those feelings are as natural as the awarding of a throw-in. What you are doing is very important and worth getting excited about. Do it well and take it very seriously.”

THERE IS NO STRONGER RECOMMENDATION THAT COULD COME FROM THE ‘MASTER’ OF OFFICIATING.

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