

Coaches, Dissent and Touchline Behavior

Consequences of Dissent

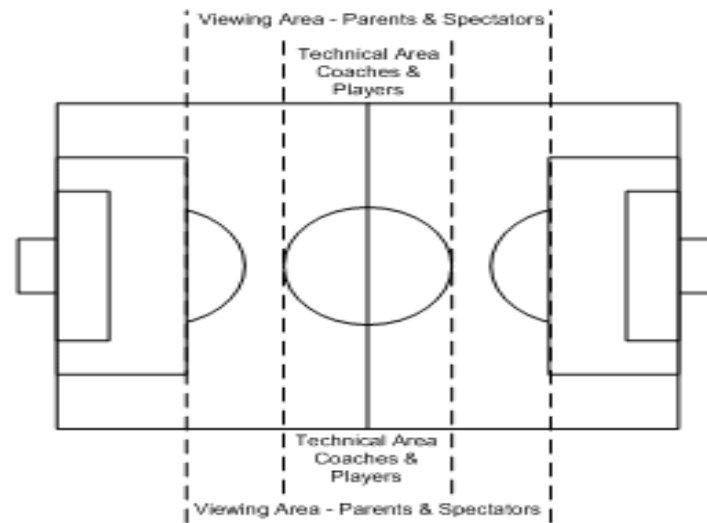
If it continues it will escalate in your game **and** in future games?

Coaches dictate tone of the match for players?

Dissent from coaches drives dissent from spectators?

Technical Area

- Let the coaches know where that is.
- Keep players bags in that area.
- Set this up before the game.
- Empower AR1 or yourself as Referee



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 Plus1

“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

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

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.

In the dual system, referees must work together as a team, support one another

In all cases you cannot “throw your fellow official under the proverbial bus”

Referees should be aware of touchline behavior and take proactive steps to intervene...particularly when working with less experienced assistants.

Can't We Just Ignore It?

Does ignoring Dissent leads 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

Stop Play and Give a Verbal Warning **ASK**

Call attention to the situation by stopping play and going over to the coach.

Pick a moment when stopping play doesn't affect either team's scoring chances.

Body Language:

Stand facing the same direction as the coach, this is not a "face-to-face" confrontation.

While telling the coach that his behavior has to stop, nod your head. The perception is that he's agreeing with whatever you're saying.

Dealing With Dissent

Tools

Stop Play and Give a Verbal Warning

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.**

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TELL

Dealing With Dissent

Expelling the Coach **REMOVE**

Wait until the coach has left the sideline and surrounding area. (exception)

Make whatever note you need in your book.

Restart play.

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

- Pregame
- Set Technical Area
- Empower AR1 or Yourself as R
- Do not have rabbit ears HOWEVER understand..
- Deal with the issue
- Set the tone