



Shore Soccer Officials Association

Zero Tolerance

Over the past few years there is a perception and reality that some coaches' behavior has crossed an important line and detrimental to soccer at the Jersey Shore. This memo deals with improper or bad conduct on the part of a member of the coaching staff. Normally, it will be the head coach, sometimes it may be an assistant coach.

These thoughts deal with both the prevention and treatment of a problem that has impacted all of us as officials. That's why we all need to treat the problem in a uniform and professional manner. Please remember, coaches can be shown cards!! You do not have to follow steps 1,2,3 in order. At any time, you can go straight to a card -- Red or Yellow.

Question?

What should an official do when a coach approaches or perhaps encroaches into areas that impact negatively on SSOA Officials?

Answer: The "Three Step" approach

1. ASK TO MODIFY BEHAVIOR

If a coach insists on making disruptive, sarcastic, or "unsporting" comments that are directed to you, to an opponent's coach, or to an opponent's player, get very near to the coach and say firmly and directly: "That's enough, coach" or "you've had your say, coach".

If the coach is violating the coaching area, tell the Coach to "go back to the coaching area".

If they are continually undermining your authority by dissenting every call by word or action (throwing objects, running down the sideline to confront you..), stop the game and deal with the issue at hand.

Get very near to a coach when you make your point. Be FIRM and DIRECT. Do not shout or scream. Tell the coach their behavior will no longer be tolerated and if they do not change their behavior further actions will be taken.

2. YELLOW CARD

If step one does not control the bad behavior, you need to administer a Yellow Card. If the coach persists in the bad behavior after the verbal warning stage, then:



Administer a Yellow Card for "Unsporting Conduct" to the offending coach. After you show the Yellow Card to the offending coach, tell the coach directly, calmly and plainly that his or her conduct will not be tolerated and that if it does continue, you will not hesitate to remove them from the field.

3. RED CARD

If the Coach still does not behave and the bad conduct persists, the 2nd Yellow/Red or Straight Red Card option is the greatest weapon and tool we have as officials. Don't be afraid to use it. In either case, the coach will be removed from the game.



Move towards the coach and display your 2nd Yellow Card followed by the Red Card



in the same hand or go straight to the Red Card, as the matter may warrant. Tell the coach that he or she must immediately leave the field. Do not argue with the coach. Do not scream at the coach. Simply tell the coach that they are dismissed from the game.

REMEMBER: You do not need to report a 2nd Yellow Card/Red Card ejection to the NJSIAA to our chapter Secretary. Only straight Red Card ejections must be reported to NJSIAA, our Chapter Secretary and the offending school's principle, as per our rules.

Once you issue a straight Red Card, you cannot change your mind, re-think what happened or be swayed by any doubts. You must report this Red Card.

MECHANICS

Stop the game and clock. You must note if you stopped play to deal with the coach, or if a natural stoppage of play occurred prior to dealing with the coach.

Restart game for reason why the game was stopped. If you stopped play to solely deal with the coach, the restart would be an IDFK to the opposing team from where the ball was when you stopped play. If the ball was out of play prior to stopping to deal with the coach, your restart would be for the reason play was originally stopped (i.e.: goal kick, throw in, foul...)

After dealing with the coach, move away and restart the game as soon as possible.