

### **CASRA Referees:**

Over the course of the past three years, a serious uptick in incidents involving referees and spectators are occurring. Maybe it's covid, maybe it's our political environment, maybe it's something else. From the referees' perspective spectator behavior is getting worse and maybe at an all-time low.

On both the USSF side and the High School side, **REFEREES ARE NOT TO INTERACT OR ENGAGE WITH SPECTATORS.** There are specific protocols in place for how to deal with unruly spectators and none of them involve engaging with the spectators directly. In order for spectators and the schools and clubs they represent to be held responsible for bad spectator behavior, referees need to follow proper protocol.

Here is a reminder of the proper protocol:

### **High School Protocol:**

- (1) Before the game, find out who the administrator is that is responsible for the game. This could be an athletic director, school administrator, game manager or as a last resort, the home team coach.
- (2) Referees do not have the authority to dismiss / eject a spectator in a high school match.
- (3) All issues involving spectators need to be reported to the administrator in charge of the match and they are responsible for controlling / dismissing spectators. They will support you and if they do not, we want to know. If an administrator is not available, the home team coach is responsible for dealing with the spectators causing the disruption.
- (4) Do not allow spectators to gather around the field, on the track, etc. There are stands in a high school stadium for a reason. Again, deal with problems through the administrator.
- (5) Be selective about where you choose to keep your belongings and have your pre-game, halftime, and post-game conversations.
- (6) **YOU ARE NEVER TO CALL, EMAIL OR CONTACT ANY ADMINISTRATOR OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL AFTER THE GAME. ALL REPORTS OR CONVERSATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED TO YOUR ASSIGNOR WHO WILL GIVE YOU FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.**

**USSF Protocol:**

- (1) Do not engage Spectators directly.
- (2) The Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators.
- (3) If you have a problem with a spectator, you are to engage the coach and the Coach must deal with the issue. For MSYSA sanctioned matches, you have the ability to sanction the head coach with a yellow or red card for the behavior of the spectator just as if the head coach had done the act themselves.
- (4) Restart the game when you feel the coach has dealt with the issue.
- (5) You may terminate the game if the coach refuses to deal with the issue.
- (6) YOU ARE NEVER TO CALL, EMAIL OR CONTACT ANY COACH, CLUB OFFICIAL OR LEAGUE OFFICIAL AFTER THE GAME. ALL REPORTS OR CONVERSATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED TO YOUR ASSIGNOR WHO WILL GIVE YOU FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.**

If you ever feel your safety is threatened in any way – dial 911.

Thank you all for what you do! Your assignors and I appreciate your hard work!.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

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