

GREATER LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SOCCER ALLIANCE

To: All GLRSA referees,

Re: Common complaints

First of all, I would like to thank you for all the great work you do for this organization or will do for this organization. We wouldn't be as successful as we are unless we had great referees helping us keep the games safe and fun for everyone involved. With that being said, please review some of the more common complaints we get on referees and some advice on how to handle them.

1. Referees getting into a shouting match with the coach and/or parent(s)
 - a. Never do this – nobody wins
 - b. If you have a problem parent, please stop the game and discuss with the coach of the team (away from the kids) about the parent
 - c. Instruct the coach to let the parent know that if they continue with whatever they are doing or saying, they will be asked to leave the playing area (they need to go to the parking lot – if that doesn't work – they need to leave the complex)
 - d. The same concept applies to coaches giving you a hard time or complaining about your calls – pull the coach aside and let them know they need to stop yelling at you or complaining about your calls or they will have to leave the playing area
 - e. Don't re-start the game until they are gone
 - f. Report the problem to Doug or GLRSA at glrsa1@aol.com
 - g. **We expect referees to be professional at all times – no exceptions!**
2. Referees don't know the rules
 - a. You need to know the rules – especially offsides and substitution procedures
 - b. Note the change in substitution rules – teams should substitute from the half line
 - c. GLRSA rules are on our website – please read them before your games – they do change from season to season sometimes
 - d. If you don't know a rule or you don't understand it, you need to ask for assistance – not knowing makes for difficult situations and hurts your credibility and effectiveness as a referee – Be Prepared!
 - e. Throw-ins – if they lift their back foot, then it is a bad throw in and the ball goes to the other team (except for U7/U8 – it is ok to give them one extra chance to do it right).
 - f. Know the rules on time limits – keep the games on schedule and don't allow too much extra time for injuries, etc.
 - g. Do not stop the clock after a goal is scored
3. Referees don't blow the whistle or they don't blow it loud enough
 - a. Put some air in the whistle – blow it like you are being attacked by someone
 - b. Everyone should hear the whistle – with all the parents and coaches yelling, you have to blow it loud enough for the kids to hear it
 - c. If you see a foul, then blow the whistle so everyone hears it – safety first at all times
4. Referees don't call any fouls (primarily for shoving and pushing)
 - a. Please remember safety first – if the kids are pushing and shoving with their hands and arms, it is usually a foul
 - b. If a player is tripped by a player from the opposite team, it is a foul – even if it was an accident
 - c. Protect the goalies – if they have a finger or hand on the ball, they are in possession of the ball – we don't need any collisions or injuries
 - d. If several kids are going off the field crying, the game might be too rough or physical and you need to take control of the game

Thanks again for all you do! Please contact us at glrsa1@aol.com with any questions or concerns with this information.

Rodney
GLRSA President
