



To Promote And Advance The Game

October 24, 2014

TRI-COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION
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Dear Coaches, Parents, Spectators and Players,

Take a minute to think about something.

You're at the Tri County Soccer fields for another great day of soccer. You're watching the game and you see a player (maybe your player) getting bumped, knocked down, or even tripped.

Often, it will be a young referee and/or assistant referee calling the match. Parents, coaches and spectators are sometimes unwilling to accept that a young referee can be maintaining control of the game. Parents and spectators can turn into a screaming group and maybe the coach is trying to control or intimidate the referee(s) by yelling. The potential for abuse of this young referee(s) is now a reality. This abuse doesn't help improve match control though, it undermines it. There was an article previously that talked about how the children feed off of the actions and attitudes of the parents, coaches and spectators at the game. While it's normal for parents to want to support and protect their child, sometimes this admirable quality can be demonstrated in a way that is counterproductive.

You may or may not know, coaches are completely accountable for the behavior of all their team spectators. Coaches, I encourage you to have a conversation with your parents and spectators about how you expect your sideline to conduct themselves.

Please, DO NOT yell at or criticize a referee during a game. Keep in mind that referees may be just a few years older than the players themselves. There is a continuous shortage of game officials. Tri County Soccer Association, in cooperation with North Texas State Soccer Association and United States Soccer Federation, is training new referees each year. Having said that, many young referees stop officiating. The number one reason young referees quit, is ABUSE – the abuse they receive from parents, spectators and coaches during the games.



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Referees have been instructed to report any kind of abuse or threats. The reports will be dealt with by our ethics committee and punishment delivered as they see fit. Our association has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy when it comes to this and I intend to make sure it is enforced. If you're a parent and know of a situation that should be dealt with, please let us know.

NO referee or assistant referee should have to endure any kind of abuse.

If there is a question about calls that the referee(s) has made the time to deal with that is after the emotions of the match have settled and by using our established process. The coach should be who initiates this process.

If you have any questions about the process for complaints or policies that our association has in place, please contact us. You can find a full list of contacts on our website at www.tricitysoccer.us under the "About Us" tab.

Think about it like this, that referee is someone's daughter or son. Ask yourself this: *Would you want someone yelling at your child, especially while she or he is working hard to call this game?*

For The Love Of The Game,

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