



To all Coaches and Parents,

I wanted to release this statement so everyone is on the same page:

This year it is a goal of mine, along with the rest of the Tri-County Soccer Association board, to ensure that this game is enjoyable and fun for everyone involved. This is a game that many kids love to play and even referee, and we would like to help grow that love for the game.

Over the last few seasons, I have watched how poorly our referees have been treated. This year we will begin cracking down on people who treat the referees poorly or harass them. Our refs do a great job in what are sometimes difficult situations. And while they make mistakes sometimes (they are only human), they are never wrong as far as making calls go. The referees ruling on the field is final. So please refrain from shouting at referees to tell them something was a "bad call." If you think a referee has made some egregious decision, you can report it later if you want, but don't argue the calls or create conflict with referees. We understand that there are times you will get upset with the refs. Not a single ref we have is perfect, but we don't want them to be torn down for making a mistake or for making the right call and you just not agreeing with it.

Many of our referees are asked to "center" a game without line judges. It can be hard enough centering a game, let alone not having assistant referees to help watch for offside calls or calls along the sidelines. So please remember, the referees are doing the best they can.

We expect the best behavior from everyone toward all referees, and it is strictly forbidden to criticize a referee. There is **NO TOLERANCE FOR NEGATIVE COMMENTS TO OR ABOUT REFEREES** at any time before, during, or after games. Anyone who does so will be asked to leave the fields, and the TCSA board may also choose to enact further sanctions.

Please give both youth and adult referees your full support and help model good behavior for others to follow. And if you have an opportunity to say "thanks" to them after a game - that would go a long way!

This season board members will watch more games and try to be more involved. But coaches, if your sideline gets unmanageable, you are ultimately responsible. If they get out of hand, you will get the card and possibly be ejected before your parent will. So, I suggest you have a conversation with your parents and help them understand that situation. Parents, if you continue to get unruly, you can and will be asked to leave the premises. In addition, you can and will be suspended from coming to the fields for a certain amount of time deemed fair by the Appeals & Disciplinary Commissioner.

Again, we want all of these kids to be able to have fun. If the sidelines constantly yell at refs or mistreat them, it takes away from the kids on the field and does not help your team.

If there are any issues, we encourage you to contact any of our board members. We will do our best to help handle the situation quickly and effectively.

We're off to another great season! See y'all out there!!

Thanks,  
Lucas Minyard  
TCSA Appeals & Disciplinary Commissioner