

How Referees are Encouraged to Deal with Sideline Abuse In WASA Rec Games

Coach Misbehavior:

Referees are encouraged to use the "Ask-Tell-Remove" approach used in MLS.

1. First, the referee will 'ask' the coach to stop the behavior.
2. Next the referee will 'tell' the coach that his (her) behavior will no longer be tolerated.

The ref may say something like, "Coach, your behavior is not acceptable. If you don't stop (*fill in the blank*), I will be forced to take further action. The decision is yours."

The coach has the sole responsibility to manage his (her) behavior.

3. The final step is ejection.

If the behavior continues, the referee may say something like, "Coach, your behavior leaves me no choice. You are dismissed from this game. You need to leave. The game will restart after you leave the field."

If the coach refuses to leave, the referee has the authority to terminate the game.

Parent/Spectator Misbehavior:

Dealing with abuse from parents and spectators is tough. Technically, the referee can't dismiss parents. Since coaches are responsible for the actions of team parents and spectators, referees will work through the coaches.

The referee will stop the game and go to the coach. The ref may say something like, "Coach, you have responsibility for the conduct of your parents. We are at the point where I feel they are impacting our ability to referee this game and they're affecting the players on the field. If no one deals with it, we will have to terminate the game. I'll give you a couple minutes to go over and tell the parents to stop their screaming (*abusing the referee, berating opponents, etc.*)."

The referee will not restart the game until the coach takes action.

If the coach refuses to address the parents, or if the coach talks with the parents, but the abuse continues, the referee has the authority to terminate the game.

All incidents where a coach is dismissed or a game is terminated will be reported to WASA staff for consideration of further action.