



# Dealing with Sideline Abuse

## Coach Misbehavior:

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

1. First, 'ask' the coach to please stop the behavior.
2. Next 'tell' the coach their behavior is no longer going to be tolerated and show the coach a Yellow Card. For U6 and U7 there are no cards so contact the senior referees after the game to report the coach's behavior.

Say, "Coach, your behavior is not acceptable. If you don't stop (*fill in the blank*), I'm going to be forced to take further action. The decision is yours."

Always tell them, "The decision is yours." This puts the sole responsibility on the coach to manage their behavior.

3. The final step is an ejection. Show the coach/team official a Red Card.

Say, "Coach, your behavior leaves me no choice. You need to leave. The game will restart after you have left the field." If the coach refuses to leave, terminate the game.

If the coach tells you that when he leaves there will be no coach, say, "I'm sure one of the parents will volunteer. If none of them volunteer, we'll have to terminate the game."

## Parent/Spectator Misbehavior:

Dealing with abuse from parents is tough. Technically, you can't dismiss parents. Work through the coach.

Go to the coach and say, "Coach, you have responsibility for the conduct of your parents. We are at the point where I feel they're 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."

Stop the game until the coach deals with the parents. Tell the coach, "I'll give you a couple minutes to go over and tell the parents to stop... (*abusing the referee, berating opponents, etc.*)."

The coach is forced to act because they know that if they do not deal with their team's parents, the game can be terminated. While the game is stopped for the coach to walk across the field, the focus is off the referee and on the coach and parents.

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

## Important Note - WASA U6 through U12 Rec Games

**If you Red Card a coach/team official or terminate a game, phone/text Seth Bumgarner (614-560-0081) or Alistair Harrison (614-625-3959) within 24 hours to report the specifics of the incident.**