



Memo to all Officials and Coaches regarding:

Referee/Coach Relationship and Expectations

Greetings Coaches, Officials (Referee's), and LNUSC position holders:

As Referee Coordinator, I wanted to send an email regarding the relationship and expectations of our Referee's and Coaches.

First, let me thank all who are participating in LNUSC. It is obvious we are growing due to a strong board, coaching staff, and involved parents and players.

As we continue with each great season, some people can get caught up in the game with our kids performance, passion to win, emotion, and good intensions (no comments for those who know me). We all want our players to be safe first and foremost, but also to have fun. This is routinely explained and reiterated at coaches, board, and referee meetings. With that said, we want the LNUSC Referee and Coach relationship to remain strong in support of our growing club.

If a coach truly values the safety of his players, and sportsmanship above winning, then he and the referee are on the same page. If, however, a coach values winning more than the Laws of the Game, he will find himself constantly at odds with the Referee, whose functions are to adjudicate the Laws of the Game, and to maintain the safety of all players.

All referees have agreed to be honest, forthright, know the laws of the game to the best of their ability, not to show favoritism, be responsible and honor their position, and to do their best. Sounds like a Boy Scout oath, but it's true. We may not be able to see everything, or "call all right" all the time, but we will do our best. To foster and strengthen the Referee Coach Relationship, please keep the following in mind during games:

- The **primary focus is player safety** and to ensure the kids have fun, while playing the game the proper way (following the Laws of The Game).
- The referee owns the field. Coaches will respect their position and their call at all times.
- Referees are to report all carded violations to the Referee Coordinator and/or the Divisional Director, President, or Vice President.
- Coaches are responsible for sportsmanship and player safety including proper uniform and equipment (no jewelry; no metal showing anywhere, including hair berets, etc). The referee(s) adjudicate these teachings during the game and holds the coach responsible if in violation.
- Coaches are responsible to know game playing times (length of halves) and should confirm these times with the referee(s) prior to game start. If the coaches have a need to change these times, they will concur with each other prior to approaching the referee(s).

- For younger in-house teams, Coaches should know when and how to pull back while ensuring safety of players during the game both on and off the field of play. The referee should not interfere with coaching styles unless they are in violation of the primary focus (first bullet). Referees are to report any violations to the Referee Coordinator, President and/or Vice President.
- Coaches need to be responsible for controlling parents, as well as players.
- Coaches are responsible for reporting game results on the website, or to the LNUSC Webmaster where applicable, in order for games scores to be posted and tracked on the website for all in-house games.

If you have any questions you may visit the Codes of Conduct and/or the Officials Corner on our website, or contact the [Referee Coordinator](#). Looking forward to continued safe soccer fun and club growth.

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