

CASRA Referees:

Over the course of the last 18 months there has been a serious uptick in incidents involving referees and spectators. Maybe its covid, maybe its our political environment, maybe it's something else. From the referees' perspective spectator behavior is getting worse and maybe at an all-time low.

On both the USSF side and the High School side, **REFEREES ARE NOT TO INTERACT OR ENGAGE WITH SPECTATORS.** There are specific protocols in place for how to deal with unruly spectators and none of them involve engaging with the spectators directly. I have little sympathy for referees who expect spectators to be sanctioned or banned when they themselves do not follow proper protocol. Here is a reminder of the proper protocol:

High School Protocol:

- (1) Before the game, find out who the administrator is that is responsible for the game. This could be an athletic director, school administrator, game manager or as a last resort, the home team coach.
- (2) Referees do not have the authority to dismiss / eject a spectator in a high school match.
- (3) All issues involving spectators need to be reported to the administrator in charge of the match and they are responsible for controlling / dismissing spectators. They will support you and if they do not, we want to know.
- (4) Do not allow spectators to gather around the field, on the track, etc. There are stands in a high school stadium for a reason. Again, deal with problems through the administrator.
- (5) Be selective about where you choose to keep your belongings and have your pre-game, halftime, and post-game conversations.
- (6) YOU ARE NEVER TO CALL, EMAIL OR CONTACT ANY ADMINSTRATOR OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL AFTER THE GAME. ALL REPORTS OR CONVERSATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED TO YOUR ASSIGNOR WHO WILL GIVE YOU FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.**

USSF Protocol:

- (1) Do not engage Spectators directly.
- (2) The Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators.
- (3) If you have a problem with a spectator, you are to engage the coach and the Coach must deal with the issue.
- (4) Restart the game when you feel the coach has dealt with the issue.
- (5) You may terminate the game if the coach refuses to deal with the issue.
- (6) YOU ARE NEVER TO CALL, EMAIL OR CONTACT ANY COACH, CLUB OFFICIAL OR LEAGUE OFFICIAL AFTER THE GAME. ALL REPORTS OR CONVERSATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED TO YOUR ASSIGNOR WHO WILL GIVE YOU FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.**

If you ever feel your safety is threatened in any way – dial 911.

Thank you all for what you do! Your assignors and I appreciate your hard work this season.

Erik
President, CASRA