



Referee/Head Coach Interaction Protocol

Kingston Football Officials
Association

Sept. 9, 2008

<http://www.kingstonfoa.ca>

Preamble

The Kingston Football Officials Association provides officiating support to various levels of football in the Kingston area. Although the rules are similar within these different levels, officials need to keep in mind the level of experience of the coaching staff. As coaches gain experience they are better able to understand the game of football and application of rules.

With this in mind, officials are striving for game control through cooperation and communication. There may be times when coaches desire further explanation of penalty calls and rule interpretations.

The first line of communication is usually with team captains. Officials should however, be aware of the captain's understanding of the rules. Information conveyed from the captain to head coach may not always be presented in a manner that is easily understood.

Head coaches will usually request a fuller explanation from the referee following rulings not understood. During such circumstances, it is important to keep the respect of the head coach. However, conferences with coaches need to be kept to a minimum and only occur when there is a serious or controversial violation of the rules.

Discussion regarding lesser infractions can occur during time outs or other clock stoppages.

Protocol

In a timely manner following a ruling that requires providing further explanation to the head coach, the Referee and Umpire will approach the bench. Such action is for clarification purposes and not an opportunity for the coach to argue the call or application. If the head coach utilizes this opportunity for debate, the officials will return to the field. Should the head coach continue to argue, it will be at the officials' discretion to penalize the team for Objectionable Conduct.

Officials are only one influencing factor during the game. They must make sure that their influence is a positive one.