

# **Coaches' Behavior on the Soccer Field**

## **What a Soccer Coach *can* do during a Soccer Game:**

1. Coach his team on how to play soccer within the technical area (10 yards from the midfield line.)
2. Plan substitutions.
3. Ask the referee for substitutions, and wait for acknowledgement from the referee.
4. Control the behavior of parents on the sidelines.
5. Be an example of how to conduct oneself during a game.
6. Support the referee's decision, even if it goes against your team.
7. Support the referee's disciplinary decisions. That is, if a yellow or red card is given out, make sure the offending player is replaced, and then told not to do the action again.
8. The coach can go onto the field during the game only if there is an injured player and the referee has signaled the coach to come onto the field.
9. If asked to do something by the referee, be cooperative.

## **What a Soccer Coach *cannot* do during a Soccer Game:**

1. Tell the Referee what to do.
2. Question a Referee's call.
3. Go out onto the field to talk to the referee.
4. Harass or intimidate a Referee.
5. Cannot speak in a confrontational manner to the referee during the game.

## **What recourse does a Soccer Coach have to address issues they have with a Referee?**

1. At no time shall a coach confront a referee on the field; neither during nor **after** a game. Polite requests for a post-game explanation are acceptable but a referee has no obligation to respond.
2. **If a Home game:** Inform the referee assignor of his/her Club as to the specifics of the event in question. (include Field Location, Date & Time, Age Group/Division, etc.)
3. **If an Away game:** Fill out a coaches report form.(found at <http://www.pawest-soccer.org/misc/forms.htm> ) Be sure to include the referee's name and all information about the game—Date/location/time/etc.
4. Request that the District representative to the Referee Committee investigate the event and report back to you and the referee in question's assignor.
5. Positive comments about referees are always welcome as this aids assignors and, more importantly, helps to retain and promote referees.

**Keep in mind that many referees in PAWest are under the age of 18. For the good of the game, we need to support and encourage more referees not demoralize and chase them away.**