

Greetings,

This is the third of several messages that I will send you this season. Please feel free to contact me if I put something in the message that you disagree with.

Today's message deals with 'consistency.'

All officials - in all sports - get questions about referee consistency. There have been questions about consistency of the calls by one official in one match, calls by the crew in one match, and calls by an official in different matches.

In response to those questions, HSSO has supported officials by reminding everyone that typically officials are closer to play, their perspective on the play is different (i.e. that officials have no agenda in the outcome of the match), the circumstances of the match may dictate that a call be made in one situation and not in another, and that advantage may have been valid in one case and not another.

We have also stated that HSSO believes all of our officials strive for consistency within a match, within a crew, and from match-to-match.

That said, players and coaches expect officials to be consistent, and there are things we can do to improve our consistency, and to improve their perspective on our consistency.

We are the third team on the field, and as that team we have to have a good understanding of how our knowledge and judgment matches our partners' knowledge and judgment. So, please arrive at least 30 minutes before the match and conduct a thorough pre-game discussion with the crew. It has value even if you have worked many matches together.

We should respect each other's calls, but we have to know that the coach sees our action as a group and not just as an individual. It's not OK to pass on a call you know your partner would have made if he/she was standing where you are. Nor is it OK to make a call you know your partner would not have made.

Great officials are unrelenting in their judgment. They see and call a game better than their colleagues. The key is to make the same call on the same kind of play whether it's the first minute of the game or the score is tied with one minute left to play. Let us all strive to be great officials.

Thanks for taking the time to read this message.

Have a great season!