

Greetings,

This is one 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.

Let's talk a minute about the referee-coach partnership. Yes. That is what I said ... referee-coach partnership. Both the coach and the referee are being paid to provide the best soccer opportunity for the players. The coach job is to train the players and try to guide them to a win. The referees are there to uphold/enforce the rules, ensure fair play, and maintain the safety of the players. These are not mutually exclusive goals. Ideally, the coach remembers and respects what your role is, and you remember the coach's role. (See my note on the five perspectives of a match.)

We have had a few situations arise already this fall that I wanted to discuss. I am sure that some of you will be shocked that this stuff is going on; that some of you will say, "So what?" and some of you will think HSSO needs to fix all these problems by holding the coaches and ADs to a higher standard. I probably agree with all of these positions from one moment to another, so bear with me.

- We have had referees show a coach a yellow card or a red card and not report it to CHSAA. This results in the coach getting a warning on the next card received instead of being required to attend behavior training. We also had referees issue a red card to a player and list the wrong team on the supplemental report. This results in the guilty player getting a free pass on the sit out. **Come on folks. If the player or coach's behavior warrants a card – of any color – then follow it up with an accurate game report/supplemental report.**
- Referees are still failing to hand out the sportsmanship card to both coaches. This may result in a conflict after the match if the coach wants to submit a game report (as CHSAA has asked the coaches to do). **This is too easy, and it is part of your referee responsibilities. Contact us if you need blank forms (or you can just write the crew information on a scrap of paper).**
- We continue to have officials hanging around the pitch after the match to shake hands with the teams and coaches. This sometimes works ... you know, a match where all the players and coaches think you were perfect. (Let me know when you have one of those matches.) **Remember it is HSSO and CHSAA policy for officials to depart the pitch immediately following the end of the match. This helps players, coaches, and officials avoid 'heat of the moment' confrontations.**

As in most cases, we find ourselves addressing the one percent (see above). Let me address the 99% for a moment. You are doing a great job. We have had fewer and fewer complaints from ADs and coaches the last couple of seasons. This is directly due to your competence and professionalism. Thank you for all you are doing for high school soccer.

Remember, you can get almost all the information you will need from our HSSO Website (<http://hssoco.colorado.org/>).

Have a good season!

**Bill**

William Gessner

President

Colorado High School Soccer Officials