Referees-Here is the "Ask, Tell, Dismiss" Procedure

Sometimes during a game not all the critical activities occur on the field. The bench areas, or technical areas if they exist, can be the scene of irresponsible behavior that impacts what is happening on the field. In these cases, U.S. Soccer recommends that referees use the Ask, Tell, Dismiss approach when dealing with coaches or other team officials. Coaches cannot commit fouls or misconduct, but they can engage in irresponsible behavior which endangers or undermines the referee's ability to manage the game. Most of the time, coaches behave appropriately, even in the face of their obvious passion and excitement about how their team is performing. However, when those actions become unacceptable, referees must be prepared to take the following actions:
First-When irresponsible behavior arises, the referee should **ask** the person to modify his or her behavior
Second-If the behavior does not return to an acceptable level, the referee should inform the person that their actions will not be tolerated and **tell** him or her to stop
Third-If the unacceptable conduct continues, the referee should take the final step in the process and **dismiss** the person from the field of play and its immediate surroundings.

Ask, Tell, Dismiss supports the powers and duties outlined in Law 5 that require the referee to take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Note, the term team official refers not only to coaches but to other non-playing personnel on the bench or in the technical area. Although the referee has the flexibility to decide what constitutes irresponsible behavior by team officials, some examples may include the use of offensive or insulting language or gestures, persistent questioning of decisions, kicking or throwing items, or refusing to remain near the bench or within the technical area.

Ask, Tell, Dismiss is intended to provide referees with a practical and flexible approach to resolve behavior issues with team officials. It is important to note that dismissing a coach or other team official does not require that each step of the process be followed. In cases where behavior is overly disruptive, blatant, or serious, the referee is always authorized to bypass any warning and immediately issue a dismissal
Ask-Tell-Dismiss is a standard tool used by referees to manage coaches, sideline parents and fans. *Be calm and professional. Apply the least amount of pressure needed to control the game.* If an action so warrants, you may immediately go to Tell or Dismiss.

Ask-Tell-Dismiss for Coaches

(1) **Ask** the coach to stop unsporting or irresponsible behavior (for example, dissent).
(2) **Tell** the coach to stop and that you are now formally giving a caution.
(3) **Dismiss** (aka, send off) the coach from the game if their bad behavior still persists. The game may continue if there is a registered assistant coach or other registered team official present from the affected club. If not, terminate the game.

Ask-Tell-Dismiss for team supporters

In addition to being responsible for players, the coach is responsible for the behavior of team officials, parents and fans (supporters).
(1) **Ask** the coach to speak with an unruly or dissenting supporter to calm that person down. Wait until the coach successfully does this.
(2) If the bad behavior persists, **tell** the coach again that they must deal with the offender right away and that the game will not continue until the offender leaves the area. Tell the coach you are issuing them (the coach) a caution.
(3) If the coach cannot handle the situation and remove the supporter, then **dismiss** (aka, send off) the coach. Do not continue the game until both the coach and the offending supporter leave the area. The game may continue if there is a registered assistant coach or other registered team official present. If not, terminate the game.