

## **SPECTATORS PLEASE CONSIDER THE REFEREE!**

Think of it this way. If each player from each team brings 1 parent/supporter and if each supporter voices an 'opinion' about just two decisions during the course of the game this amounts to 56 occasions when the referee is being subject to pressure and criticism (i.e. 14 players x 2 teams x 2 opinions). Almost one for every minute of the game.

**REMEMBER REFEREES  
ARE AN ENDANGERED  
SPECIES – LOOK AFTER  
THEM WELL OR THEY  
WILL BECOME EXTINCT.**

**ENCOURAGE  
ALL 23 PEOPLE  
ON THE PITCH**

Referees do not get up each Sunday morning and look forward to how many mistakes they might make during the forthcoming game. They think about helping 22 children enjoy a game of football. Referees give up their time to undertake training so they can help local football. Mistakes happen, it's how we deal with them that makes a difference. Negative comments affect the referee, the players and the entire game. The players are more likely to accept a decision going against them if their supporters do.

If all supporters gave lots of encouragement and if all supporters never criticised a decision..... What kind of experience would that be for the players to take away.

We all know that when we are learning or practising a sport the best way to improve is to focus on and encourage good things; 'being positive'. Emphasising weaknesses and mistakes makes us feel bad, dents confidence and makes things worse. How do you think the referee feels when he gets constantly reminded each time he makes a mistake or a decision that is not universally agreed? Imagine a coach load of people jeering at you every time you make a mistake during your driving test – how many people would be able to pass the test? Professional referees learn to live with criticism; they operate in a totally different environment. Our local referees should not be expected to put up with any more than you or I would, particularly Dads who have VOLUNTEERED to help out in the absence of allocated referees.

**SUPPORT YOUR  
REFEREE.  
MAKE FOOTBALL  
ENJOYABLE FOR ALL.**