



# District 8 Referee Protocol

1. **DO NOT** argue with the referee/referees. They are ALWAYS right, even when they are “wrong”. NO coach has ever won an argument with a referee. Do not put yourself at risk of being suspended because you confronted a referee before, during, or after a game. Basically, do not approach the referee, asking questions about decisions made in a game. If you have a question on a soccer law, ask a league representative, or a party associated with referee assignment for the league.

2. **It is YOUR responsibility to keep your players AND spectators under control before, during, and following all Cal North sanctioned games.**

3. All referees WILL make mistakes during the course of a game, that is part of the game.

4. Your “view” of a specific play will usually be exactly the opposite of what the center referee’s view is (Usually the referee is in the “center” of the field and you are on the “side” of the field). The referee will see fouls that you will not see and vice versa. Expect this and “live” with it.

5. Accept the calls, they will usually even out UNLESS one team is playing more aggressively than the other team.

6. If you observe one of your players beginning to play more aggressively than what is called for or at a more aggressive nature than what the other players are playing at OR your player is becoming “mouthy” towards the opposing player/players OR referee you should take action to control the player before the referee does.

7. **Be sure that your players understand that DISSENT towards the referee is NOT ACCEPTABLE conduct from any player or team official at any level of Cal North sanctioned play.**

8. IF, the referee is not calling fouls properly and those non-calls put your players in danger of being injured because of the referee’s “lack of control” of the game. You should ask the nearest assistant referee to you to request that the center referee “Tighten Up” the game. If the center referee does not comply in a reasonable amount of time with your request after being notified by the assistant referee of your concerns **you should “abandon” the game by removing your team from the field** and write a brief one or two page report to: **Sue Gonzales, D8 Commissioner, 1205 Laurel Drive, Manteca, CA, 95336**. as to what your reasons were for abandoning the game. **If you choose to abandon the game because the referee does not in your opinion have control of the game DO NOT get into a discussion with the referee about it after the game is over. STAY AWAY from the referee after the game, he/she does not want to hear your comments on their officiating ability.** DO NOT abandon a game because of disputes/dissatisfaction about referee judgment calls regarding: Who’s throw in it is when the ball goes out of bounds; Whether it is a goal kick or a corner kick; Whether a player was off side or no, etc. You should only abandon a game when you feel the playing environment is dangerous for your players.

9. **DO NOT discuss anything that took place during a game with the referee after ANY game: Stay away from the referee/referees after a game.** The referee does not want your opinion of his/her skills as a referee. (If you have negative comments about a referee they should be sent in writing to **Sue Gonzales, D8 Commissioner, 1205 Laurel Drive, Manteca, CA, 95336** . If you choose to write a letter about the referee’s actions be specific in your letter as to what technical mistakes were made by the referee (Be sure that you know the rules of play before you write the letter). Give the date, time, age/gender group, location of the game, and the level of play. (I need to be able to find out who the referee was). **Your remarks or actions towards a referee before, during or AFTER a game may lead to your suspension as a coach. Do not let your spectator/parents confront a referee during or after a game. You are responsible for their actions as well as your own behavior and you could be suspended for not controlling your spectator/parents.**