



BAY - LAKES SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR YOUTH - KIDS HAVING FUN

BAY-LAKES SAY

**ALLOUEZ-ASHWAUBENON-DE PERE/WRIGHTSTOWN
GREEN BAY KICKERS-GREEN BAY STRIKERS-PULASKI**

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APROPRIATE GAME BEHAVIOR

Coaches – Parents - Referees

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The Bay-Lakes SAY Area would like to provide information for Coaches, Parents, and Referees on the conduct of administration of games, comments, protests and ethics violations affiliated with SAY in the Bay-Lakes Area.

At each game the referee is the sole judge of the game and is responsible for implementing the rules of the game in his best judgment. The judgment of the referee is not debatable, protestable or open for discussion. This is not because the referee is always right or doesn't make mistakes but because in terms of the game the referee is the sole judge.

On the other hand the referee is expected to have complete knowledge of the rules of the game and implement them as they are written. If the referee misapplies the rule this is a protestable incident and there is a process for dealing with a protest. To clarify these statements let me give you an example of a judgment and a protestable error by the referee. If the referee makes a call, or does not make a call such as a handball is called and you feel that there was no intent and the handball should not have been called, this is a judgment call, the referee has the sole right to make the determination. A complaint or protest on such a call will not be addressed by any process within Bay-Lakes SAY. Any vocalization or expression of disagreement with the referee on such calls is prohibited. On the other hand let's say that a player obstructs another player, the referee makes the obstruction call and awards the offended team a direct free kick. This is a protestable error by the referee and there is a process for addressing such incidents. At the time of the incident the coach should notify the referee that they feel an error has been made and their intent is to officially protest the incident. The protest is not a confrontation between the coach and the referee but only a notice to the referee that the coach thinks there has been an error in applying the rules (not an error in judgment). An official protest must then be made on the Bay-Lakes.org web site using the feedback form "Protest" and will require a fee of \$50. Further information on filing an official protest is contained in rule 9 of the Say Rules of the game and the Bay-Lakes SAY due process procedure.

In order to ensure that events are handled properly the following expectations will be enforced at all games. From the start of the game to the end of the game including halftime a coach or spectator may not enter the field of play unless beckoned on by the referee. If a coach has a question regarding what was called they can indicate to the referee that they would like an explanation of WHAT was called and how the rule was implemented. The referee shall inform the coaches and or the team captains what the nature of any call is and how they implemented it but they may do so at a time that they think is appropriate. Referees should not discuss with any

participant other than another assigned referee the whys, and why not, of calls. This type of discussion is almost certain to involve judgment and these issues are not debatable. A referee should never become confrontational with any participant or spectator at a game. If a participant becomes confrontational with a referee that referee is expected to enforce the spirit of the game in an adult manner using the process provided, verbal warning, official caution, and ejection. If a participant refuses to leave the venue of any game following an ejection, the game should be suspended and local law enforcement notified. When that participant is removed from the venue the game may resume if time allows. Games may be shortened if it is appropriate based on time constraints (other games, daylight).

The referee should not become directly involved in the discipline of non-participants in a game (spectators). The proper procedure to control a situation where a spectator is in the JUDGEMNT of the referee displaying inappropriate behavior is to suspend the game, notify the coaches of both teams that the behavior should be addressed and that the game will resume when the offending behavior has been corrected. If the coaches are unable to correct the offending behavior, the coaches should be instructed to notify the offensive person or persons to leave the venue. If such person or persons refuse to leave the venue local law enforcement should be summoned. The game may resume when the issue has been resolved assuming time permits. Games may be shortened if it is appropriate based on time constraints (other games, daylight).

