



# Dealing with Dissent

**Dissent is Public, Persistent and Personal words or actions towards a match official**

**At some point during your game, you may have to deal with Dissent from a Coach, Player or Parent/Spectator**

## **Strategies for a Successful Outcome:**

- Do not take anything personally
- Be confident in your knowledge of the game— you know more about the LOTG than anyone else on the field
- Remain Calm, even if others are not
- ASK, TELL, DISMISS





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## Coaches:

- Set the ground rules up front (in the pre-game is best)
- Don't let coaches intimidate you
- If dissent occurs:
  - Politely inform the coach their behavior is unsporting and **ASK** them to stop
  - If dissent continues, **TELL** the coach their behavior is unsporting and they will be asked to leave if they do not stop. Caution if appropriate.
  - If the dissent continues, Send-off and **DISMISS** the coach. If there is no certified Assistant Coach present and/or the Coach does not leave within a reasonable amount of time, end the match.





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## Players

- Make your presence known from the moment you step on the field
- Do not tell players how you will call the game ahead of time
- Blow your whistle with confidence, even if you don't feel confident about the call
- Listen to what players are saying, up to a point. Allow them to vent for a few seconds without calling it dissent
- If dissent occurs
  - Tell the player their behavior is unsporting and **ASK** them to stop
  - If dissent continues, **TELL** the player their behavior is unsporting and Caution the player (age appropriate adjustments may be needed)
  - Inform the coach they may want to sub out the player soon as they risk playing short
  - If dissent continues, send off and **DISMISS** the player (age appropriate adjustments may be needed)





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## Parents/Spectators:

- Enlist the support of the coach (in the pre-game is best)
- Do not get into discussions or arguments with the sidelines– even if you know them
- If dissent occurs:
  - **ASK** the coach to speak with the parents/spectators and let them know their behavior is not appropriate
  - If dissent continues, **TELL** the coach the parent/spectator behavior is not appropriate and have the coach ask them to leave if they won't stop; given them a reasonable amount of time to do so
  - If dissent continues, tell the coach to **DISMISS** the parent/spectator. If they or the parent/spectator refuses, end the game
- We cannot Caution or Send-off Parents/Spectators

