**SIDELINE DECORUM**

**Upon arrival at the field, the crew chief should locate the site administrator and obtain his/her cell number. If there are ANY significant sportsmanship issues, request the site administrator watch the game from the offending team’s sideline.**

Maintaining control of the sidelines is an important part of your duties as an official. Coaches and their assistants must exhibit proper sportsmanship. If you begin to have problems, please follow the guidelines below to stop the inappropriate behavior. It is recognized that every situation is different but use your experience and training to navigate your way through a difficult situation.

If you start having difficulties with a head coach or his staff, the flank should politely talk to head coach about sideline control. Repeat as necessary. Once it appears that this team will be a continuing problem, the Referee should talk to head coach about his or his staff’s decorum. Negative behaviors might include, but are not limited to criticizing officials, constantly begging for calls, yelling out across the field, and assistants continuing to interject themselves. Under no circumstances allow an assistant to have a negative impact on the game. Assistants should have zero negative interaction with the crew. Give the head coach a little leeway but hold everyone on the sideline to a standard. If the negative behavior continues, stop the game and go to the head coach and tell him this is his final warning**. It is CRITICAL at this point that you request the site administrator come to the sideline and witness the behavior.**

If poor sportsmanship continues, do not hesitate to throw the flag for UNS. After the first UNS, remind the head coach that a second UNS against an individual will result in an automatic ejection which requires the offender to leave the stadium. That person may also be suspended.

Stay calm but remind the coach that the current behavior is not acceptable within the guidelines of the Coaches Code of Conduct. Remind the coach that he in encouraged to send film and/or comments to his association.

If someone asks for your name, DO NOT GIVE IT to them. Simply tell them to go through the association president and the commissioner, who will contact me. You can give them my name as your “supervisor”, but not my phone number.

The key is not letting bad behavior continue. Gauge the seriousness of the problem and manage it by warning the coaching staff and include the site administrator. When all else fails, do not hesitate to throw the flag.

**DO NOT ALLOW ASSISTANT COACHES TO DISPLAY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. REMIND THE HEAD COACH THIS IS A CIF/POPWARNER/AYF POINT OF EMPHASIS THIS YEAR.**