



Instructor's Corner

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Did this "yellow card" get your attention? If you got this as a player, would it change your attitude for the remainder of the match?

We are Doctors of Behavioral Science when we don the uniform of the referee and administer the Laws of the Game for the prescribed duration of a match. It is not the intent of any law that we become the center of attention during play, other than to enforce the laws as demanded in Law V. If we can leave the field after a match without being seen (or looked for), then we have accomplished our objective, to impartially officiate a game between two sides, having no direct role in the establishment of an outcome.

The reason I bring this up is to reinforce some behavior (and to attempt to change others) by simply stating the obvious..... Before we can enforce the laws of the game, we must know the laws of the game.

I have had several opportunities over the summer to observe our referee corps and here's what I have seen:

- improper use of the Advantage (try using it only in the attacking third)
- undecided about the restart (was it indirect or direct?)
- positioning into the corners (we can't judge from 40 yards away)
- poor administration of substitutes (keeping subs off the field until the player has left the field of play)

If we can all focus on just these simple things (there are only 4 of them) for the next month, we will see remarkable improvement in game control, player performance and fan appreciation. Give it a try..... See you on the pitch.