



# Referee Liaison Program

It is mandatory for every team (All Premier/Club teams and all U13/U15/U17/U19 Community to provide a referee liaison for every league game. The liaison can be a different person each game and can be anyone with the exception of the coach or assistant coach. The name of the referee liaison **MUST** be marked in the area provided on the game sheet.

**The team has a 15 minute grace period in which to provide a liaison or they will default the game. Please ensure the name is marked on the game sheet.**

## Background:

Referee abuse and harassment by spectators and coaches is the main reason why referees, particularly those in their early teens, drop out of the development program resulting in severe shortages of officials at all levels. This unacceptable behavior towards our referees must be addressed as a **priority** particularly if soccer is to have an adequate supply of referees.

All teams must designate an individual (does not have to be the same person for each game) at each game (home and away) to act as a **referee liaison**. The **referee liaison** of each team shall be a person who is not the coach or assistant coach and their main role will be to act as a deterrent to possible acts of misbehaviour by spectators or team officials. The **referee liaison** will also be available to the referee should a request to do so be made or if a potential problem exists.

The referee liaison must be an individual who is willing and able to control and monitor the behavior of the parents and coaches throughout the game. This role is to be taken very seriously and the goal of this role is to keep the parents and coaches in the game following the rules as set forth in code of conduct as well as maintaining respect for the referees and opposing team. This role is not in place for the referee liaison to question any calls made by the refs.

## Description of duties:

- Please introduce yourself to the referee prior to the start of the game and tell them that you are here to help them if they require it.
- Please wear the identifying lanyard badge provided by your team. The lanyard will be given out in your coach package.
- Monitor the behavior of your team's parents and team officials.
- Be visible at half time and full time by walking onto the field with your fellow liaison from the other team. Walk towards the referee and be ready to assist the referee if needed.
- Quickly diffuse potential problems before they arise by either being visible or calmly speaking with the individual(s) involved.
- Deal with, and act on, inappropriate comments, gestures and/or general unsporting behaviour directed at referees, players or any other individual by your teams' spectators or coaches but please avoid getting into a confrontation.
- Submit a brief report in writing to the EMSA office of any incident that you feel the EMSA should be aware of involving inappropriate behaviour by ANY individual. Based on any official report, the EMSA will conduct an investigation into the incident and act accordingly.