



Senior Referee Seminar 16 February 2014

DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH DISSENT

Dealing Effectively with Dissent



1. What is dissent?
2. Ways of eliminating or minimising dissent during your match.
3. Different types of dissent.
4. Dealing effectively with dissent.

1. What is Dissent?



Dissent is probably one of the hardest things for any referee to resolve ...

Much of it is personal and subjective.

General Principle



DON'T LET PLAYER
BEHAVIOUR INFLUENCE
YOUR ATTITUDE NOR
YOUR BODY LANGUAGE!



1. What is Dissent?

DISSENT is a challenge to the authority of the referee (or AR) and his or her control over the match.

Players can show dissent in a range of ways (using verbal and/or body language) but, whatever the method, its purpose is to undermine and diminish the authority of the referee.



1. What is Dissent?

A good place to start if you're lost:

Try to work out whether the player is reacting out of frustration or disappointment to a call

OR

is trying to influence the referee, dispute the call or embarrass or belittle a member of the Referee team.



2. Ways of Eliminating or Minimising Dissent

- Run hard and get in good positions
- Use your whistle to help you manage the match and the players' behaviour
- Get the decisions correct
- Communicate confidently and in a balanced manner with the players/officials
- Give the free kick and then GET OUT OF THERE!
- Take action against clear examples of public dissent
- Only try to play advantage if it is LIKELY to succeed
- “Give the players an inch but if they try to take a mile then give them nothing instead!”

2. Ways of Eliminating or Minimising Dissent



So, if your performance is good and your decisions are correct then you are less likely to experience dissent in a match.



3. Different types of Dissent

Before we try to identify the different types of dissent, let's just note a few things ...

POINT 1:

Dissent should not be confused with mere disagreement, which does not reflect negatively on the official.

A player can express a difference of opinion in a respectful manner. This is not dissent.

3. Different types of Dissent



Before we try to identify the different types of dissent, let's just note a few things ...

POINT 2:

Dissent which is an emotional outburst (non-premeditated), short in duration, isolated, and not destructive to game control can be dealt with (verbally or by gesture) by the referee quickly and effectively.

3. Different types of Dissent



Before we try to identify the different types of dissent, let's just note a few things ...

POINT 3:

Players and officials do not have to agree with your decisions: they simply have to accept them.

Disagreeing with your decision does not and should not automatically lead to dissent.

3. Different types of Dissent



It is convenient to think about dissent in a way that helps us take the correct action or sanction. Thus, we are considering three levels of dissent

- Low-level dissent
- Medium-level dissent
- High-level dissent

Low-level Dissent



Type of Dissent	Indicative behaviour	Referee Action or Sanction
Low-level dissent	<p>Minor complaining or whinging. Private dissatisfaction.</p> <p>Expression of frustration or disappointment.</p> <p>Quiet swearing not directed at officials (and not deemed foul or abusive).</p>	<p>Ignore or quiet word (informal warning)</p> <p>Calm, clear verbal communication and/or body language</p>

Medium-level Dissent



Type of Dissent	Indicative behaviour	Referee Action or Sanction
Medium-level dissent	<p>Emotional displays and reactions to an event.</p> <p>Impulsive responses to a decision which can be handled without too much fuss.</p> <p>General swearing which is a reaction to an event and not directed at officials.</p> <p>Public complaining/whinging which is not aggressive and does not seek to belittle or mock the referee.</p>	<p>Quiet word or public warning.</p> <p>Calm, authoritative verbal communication and body language</p>

High-level Dissent



Type of Dissent	Indicative behaviour	Referee Action or Sanction
High-level dissent	<p>Public swearing not deemed foul or abusive.</p> <p>Loud, public dissent designed to influence or belittle the referee.</p> <p>Public gesticulations which belittle or mock the Ref or ARs.</p> <p>Ongoing or continued Low-level or Medium-level dissent after a warning.</p>	<p>Yellow Card.</p> <p>Calm, authoritative body language. Use verbal communication too if required.</p>

Foul or Abusive Language



<p>Foul or Abusive Language (may or may not be directed at the match officials)</p>	<p>Foul, offensive language (normally public).</p> <p>Abusing officials verbally or through foul body language.</p> <p>Verbal abuse of an opponent, teammate, club official or spectator.</p> <p>Threatening physical harm to an official, opponent, club official or spectator.</p> <p>Calling the match officials a “cheat” or similar insult.</p>	<p>Red Card.</p> <p>Calm, authoritative body language.</p>
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4. Dealing Effectively with Dissent



Thus, we can allocate approximate sanctions to each level...

<u>Level of dissent</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>
Low-level dissent	Ignore or visual warning (non-verbal gesture) or Quiet Word
Medium-level dissent	Public Warning
High-level dissent	Yellow Card

4. Dealing Effectively with Dissent



Individual and Group Exercise:

Work through the four scenarios.

DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH DISSENT



Remember:

Dissent does not always require that you caution a player but it does require that you manage the situation without exception.

The referee who chooses not to hear verbal dissent or not to see the ball being throw down in disgust is not only making his or her own job harder, but sets a poor example for their colleagues who will be left to manage it in future weeks.

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