



When You See A Stop Sign. Stop!

We know.

The action is intense, you are in a heated battle, the referee calls or does not call something – and you think the call should have gone the other way. You say something. Hopefully it's not considered dissent by the referee - Referees are instructed: "Is this a quick emotional outburst or dissent?" If it is an "outburst," referees consider alternative methods of addressing the behavior. If it is dissent, then the referee must at least give a two-minute-penalty (blue card) to the player.

Most referees are willing to engage in a quick, respectful conversation clarifying the call or what they saw and as long as you don't engage in dissent (Dissent consists of language, both verbal and nonverbal, which disputes an official's decision. If, in the opinion of the referee a player engages in dissent the referee MUST penalize the player.) Or uses "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (FAOL)" (Any player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures must be red carded if the player's actions exceed the boundaries of the "Personal, Public and Provocative" standards.)

So have your quick say, or a discussion if the referee allows it, but know that on the field, pretty much everything is "In the opinion of the referee" which means in your game the referee sets the standards for what is dissent (blue) and what is FAOL (red). Our referees are encouraged to let you know that the discussion has come to a close and you should get back to playing by displaying the Stop sign – if you run through a stop sign you should expect (at least) a blue card. The "Stop Sign" (arm extended out and palm facing the player) to indicate to a player that any further dissent (verbally or visually) will result in a penalty. This is an immediate visual warning to be issued by the referee that can be seen by anyone watching or participating in the game. The "stop sign" should be used by the referee to signify that the referee has "drawn the line in the sand" and further dissent by the player(s) will result in a blue card being issued.

Additionally, the "stop sign" is a signal intended to dissuade a player from approaching or making a run toward an official. When using the "stop sign," the referee is indicating to the players that they should immediately cease their negative actions and/or protesting or be penalized. Note: The use of the "stop sign" does not preclude the referee from immediately

cautioning or ejecting a player (before the sign is used) depending upon the severity of the infringement or protest.

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