



DEMONSTRATION: Coach Interaction

1. Talking point: "When in doubt, don't let it out!"

Things to say to coaches:

- a. "Here's what I heard you say." (Recount it so you have it right or understand it.)
- b. "I see your point."
- c. "I hear you!"
- d. "That may well be..."
- e. "We'll have to talk at halftime coach."
- f. "I'll relay that to my partners."
- g. "I see what you mean."

Things NOT to say to coaches:

- a. "Calm down."
 - b. "Because that's the rule!"
 - c. "I know how you feel!"
 - d. "I'm not going to say this again."
 - e. "I don't want to hear another word."
 - f. "If you say one more thing you're going to get a card!"
 - g. Practice -Using the language of the rules and current interpretations when explaining rulings
2. Create scenarios that an official may have with a coach.
 3. Practice the officials' response(s) using the language of the rules
 4. Discuss what would be a good response and what would not.

EXAMPLES

- A. "Body ball! Empty! Shooting space!" or general commentary during flow of play and fouls that should be called throughout the game.
 - Remember that judgment is the obligation of the official, and that coaches and fans are inherently biased toward their teams
 - Say, "There was no intention with the ball-to-body contact, Coach," or "The defender was within a stick's length of the attacker," or similar explanation using the language of the rules.



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- "Do you have a question about a particular ruling/body balls, Coach?" Sometimes coaches aren't being critical but are hoping for a call and verbalize that.
 - If there isn't time to answer a question/address a comment, quickly say "Ask me about that during a timeout or at the half, Coach."
 - If it continues, give a hand up, a "mom look," or say "Enough!" And, be willing to use a card if the talk continues after your physical and verbal warnings.
- B. "What was that call, ref?!"
- Coaches are allowed to ask questions, regardless of tone. Sometimes they may be emotional, but they still need to know what was called. Give them the benefit of the doubt.
 - Answer the question quickly within the language of the rules (i.e., "Checking across the body from behind, Coach.")
 - If it is a call by your partner and you don't know what it is, tell the coach you will check and get back to them, you were looking off-ball, screened, etc. at the time. Then check and get back to the coach (when there's time).
- C. "That was a terrible call!" "Whatever!" Or similar statements that are not questions
- During flow of play, ignore, give a hand, a "look," or say "Enough!" Be willing to use a card if the talk continues after your physical and verbal warnings.
 - Ongoing commentary that has been addressed should then be carded.
 - "G rated" language is appropriate on the lacrosse field. "PG rated" language should be warned. "R rated" should be carded (without warning).
- D. "That is the 5th straight call on my team!" "Nice hometown call!" "You might as well be wearing a blue shirt!" "Who's paying you today?" or other comments that question integrity.
- Say, "Enough," or "That's enough, Coach," and give a hand, then card the coach!