

“Be careful of your thoughts....they may become words at anytime”

A. Introduction

1. Welcome and Introduce Self
2. Ground Rules
3. Type of class: Lecture/Discussion/Practical Exercises (lots of audience participation)
4. Who are your peers – Any officials in the group, first time coaches etc.,.

B. Body

1. Ice Breaker-Linn Parish Quote
2. Rhetorical Questions?
3. Question...?
4. Question ...?

(Perform audience script skit)

5. Remember your role and that of the official. Wear the other shoe in thought.

Note: It's hard to believe from a player/coach/parent/fan point of view that the official just doesn't care who wins or loses.

6. It is not always what you say but, how you say it that is heard. (“I didn't say he stole the money” exercise/discussion) What did your body say? Cover a few examples.

- a. Folded arms, gestures, head nods/shakes, shoulder shrug, thumbs up and other high signs...
- b. Sunglasses and good communication

7. When you communicate with an official is critical in how well it is received. It's not your intent that is the key but, the way it is taken that counts.

a. Mentally prepare for possible differences before the game. Rehearse good communication techniques. Set your own behavior parameters and what you expect from your players. Watch other matches you are not vested in to observe other coaches/players/officials. Talk with a mentor or respected official to get understanding.

- b. Choose a time when they are not overly involved in the moment.
- c. Couch your comment in the form of an inquisitive question at times.
- d. Social Physics: For every push there is resistance

8. Buzz words/comments that help and those that don't
9. Gamesmanship Discussion – Is it ethical? When? Where? How?

C. Summary

1. Recap Main points
2. Question and Answers
3. Closing Statement: Quote Sydney J. Harris

Comments That Don't Help!

1. Anything said with foul language in it's context.
2. Any inference to bias: eg. Hey ref...how much did they pay you? Do you have a child on their team? You called 10 fouls against us and only two against them! Comments about makeup calls or being homered. Call it both ways!
3. References as to the official's faculties: eg. Want to borrow my glasses? If you can't keep up with play you shouldn't be here!
4. Suggestions as to the official's efficiency. You should have been out at second base for that call. You didn't call that for us! What was that! The call was horrible! You're horrible! Let them play! Missed that one! Are you kidding? No way! What the ***** was that? A monkey can do a better job! Have you read the rule book. Haven't you ever watched pro sports!
5. Derogatory comments: Questions/Comments about genetic or family heritage, social status, appearance etc.,.
6. Defaming or objection department or gestures. Sarcasm.
7. Anything that inflames or threatens....?

Things That Might help!

1. Ask for clarifications. Generally ask about the rule and not the call. (Even if you know the rule)
2. Greet officials where possible and thank them for showing up. Most officials know when they are being set up/worked so, be careful trying to trap them. Remember the point is to communicate.
3. Officials talk to one another so....if you are a team frequently talked about you might look for different approaches to communicate with officials. Teach your captains how/when to approach officials.
4. Use an apologetic tone. Standard please and thank you methodology. I'm sorry sir, I didn't quite understand what happened there.....please fill me in?
5. Quietly bring to the officials attention if people are doing things that are wholly inappropriate. eg. Opposing players, fans, coaches talking to you in ways that are not in good taste or designed to deride, demean, threatening, racial slurs or simply get into your head or taking cheap shots when the officials attention is elsewhere. Be careful not to get aggressive or make threats/derogatory comments of your own when you speak to the official. Have your players inform you (coach) out loud so the official can hear but, not scream it out. If the action is perceived by those doing it as effective you might get it more.
6. Choose words that are not misinterpreted by the official's crew. Tell Johnny to "work hard," rather than "be aggressive". Use "Hold your position" rather than "Don't let him push you around."