

RESPECT PROGRAMME

INFORMATION FOR FEDERATIONS, REFEREES

NZF is introducing the RESPECT Programme for the 2009 season to help raise standards and address abusive behavior in the game at all levels.

As part of the RESPECT Programme, for all competitions it has been decided to introduce both the initiative that involves the referee **working with the team captain** on the day to manage the players and the game effectively and the **pre-match fair play handshake initiative**.

NZF would like your help in implementing these two protocols this season in senior football.

WORKING WITH THE TEAM CAPTAIN

1. The referee will work with the team captain in order to manage the players and the game effectively. Note the guidelines in the Laws of the Game which state that the captain has no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game but he has a degree of responsibility for the behavior of his team.
2. The referee must control the game by applying the Laws of the Game, and deal firmly with any open show of dissent by players e.g. not move away from the incident, but stay and deal with it.
3. The referee should use a stepped approach where appropriate to managing players e.g. roadblocks 1) free kick, 2) free kick with quiet word, 3) free kick with admonition (this is when the referee should consider using the captain to get the message across), 4) yellow card.
4. This stepped approach does not negate the fact that the referee has the authority within the Laws of the Game to issue disciplinary sanctions without recourse to the captain.
5. Players may appeal for a decision (e.g. a throw-in) but it is important that the referee distinguishes these from an act of dissent which should be punished with a caution.
6. Even if the captain is some way from an incident when the referee feels he needs him involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call the captain over rather than using any other player.
7. These guidelines should be seen as additional preventative tool in order to help referees manage the game more effectively. The key is to use the captains in a more visible way, where appropriate.

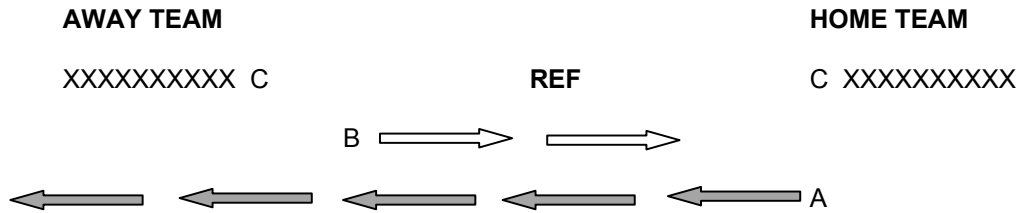
FAIR PLAY HANDSHAKE PROTOCOL

The following protocol should be applied where possible:

1. The starting eleven from both teams together with the referee(s) should take part in the handshake.
2. Each team should line up on the side of the halfway line.
3. The Home team, led by their captain, then walks to shake hands with the referee(s), and then the away team. Once each Home team player has finished shaking hands with the last away team player they disperse.
4. Once the last home team player has passed by, the Away team then follows their captain to shake hands with the referee(s).
5. Once the handshake has been completed the referee then tosses the coin.

It may be difficult to implement this protocol in every case, we would ask that referees do what the reasonably can to ensure its implementation.

HANDSHAKE FORMATION



RESPECT FOR REFEREES (SAMPLE)

1. Arrange to meet with the captains well before kick off
2. "Thanks for turning up guys"

"I hope you have a good game; I certainly want to have one too"

"This is just a little chat.

Player development and referee development are important and must develop together.

New Zealand Football would like to see some respect shown to referees to help with the recruitment and retention of neutral referees.

If there are any problems during the game then I may need to ask you for your help in dealing with a player.

At the same time I'm prepared to answer your reasonable questions asked in a quiet voice. Referees will still talk to players and players can still talk to referees.

Any questions?

Have a good game guys.