

MEMORANDUM TO ALL MEMBERS OF WMSRA

SCOTT RYDER

After the first week end of the WMYSA's fall season for 2009, the Association and its officials have received numerous complaints about the officiating including questions about whether there should be extra-time added on at the end of the half and at the end of the game, how referees handled the checking in of players and of course the myriad of bad calls that were made. Although any criticism of officials in the Association is of concern, most of these types of criticisms are about judgments of the official made at the time of the incident, and there is little that can be done to second guess the official's judgment, nor should those judgments be questioned.

However, there is one area of criticism that the Association takes very seriously and one that is inexcusable. Every referee and assistant referee must wear the proper uniform and wear it in the proper manner. Failure to do this will result in the termination of assignments and/or the end of future assignments. This uniform problem is primarily occurring among the younger referees, but this memorandum is to serve as a reminder to all.

When I was a player I always checked out the referee before the match. If he was not properly dressed then I expected a sloppy match and too often my expectations were fulfilled. As a referee your credibility begins when you arrive at the field in uniform. If you are not properly dressed, then you will have a much tougher time convincing the players, coaches, spectators and your partners that you are serious about this match and your responsibilities.

Referees are to prohibit players from wearing jewelry. Referees that turn around and wear jewelry lose credibility with those very same players. When you referee take off all jewelry that is visible to players, fans, coaches and your partners. The only jewelry that is acceptable is a watch, on the wrist, wedding bands and medical information jewelry.

Referee uniform shorts must be all black and not be at the knee or below "basketball" shorts. Ball caps must be black. Socks must be black and pulled up to the knee. Shoes must be primarily black. There are NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

As I have emphasized in the past, there are two areas that fans, coaches and players can validly criticize a referee, fitness and attire. Let's not give anyone an opportunity to validly criticize us. Let's look sharp, act professionally and keep up with play! I hope we all have a great fall season!

Sincerely,
R. Scott Ryder,
President WMSRA

Date: 09/15/09.