



SEE = Safety + Equality + Enjoyment – For the good of the game!

Referees must ensure that SEE is provided in every match! These are three important pieces of a puzzle that must be put in place for a successful game.

S – The spirit of the game requires that the referee's number one priority is to ensure the safety on the field. Players' safety should never be sacrificed for the game flow, for an apparent advantage, or any other reason. Apply "Law 18 – Common Sense"; while referees cannot prevent every injury during a soccer game, consider the age and skill level of the players then use preventative measures to maintain control of play.

- 1) Positioning – be in the right place at the right time
- 2) Talk to players - words like "settle down", "relax", or "easy" may be enough to avoid having situations escalate to a dangerous level which may cause injury. Communication to players is very important in match control.
- 3) Use body language to communicate - a stern look or using your hands/arms to tell a player he needs to settle down.
- 4) Whistle – if there is a foul, blow the whistle! Do not use the preventative measures when there is a foul that must be called. Ask yourself this question: If I don't blow the whistle, play will become more rough and physical?
- 5) Age and Skill Level affect decisions - Referees may need to stop play for a situation in a U9 game that you would not stop for in a U18 game. Common sense applies – do what is best for the game!

E - Referees must provide the teams a level playing ground to demonstrate their skills and compete for an equal chance to win. It is important that referees are unbiased. From the time you arrive at the field, display your professionalism and show the same respect for each team. Be cordial and respectful to the teams. Introduce yourself to the coaches and players and conduct the same check in procedure for each team. Provide any team instructions to both teams at this time so that all coaches and players are clear on what is expected of them. (Example: "substitutes must be ready at the opportunity, please wait for my signal before entering the field") This simple type of communication sets expectations and helps you create a level playing field. At the coin toss, shake hands and offer the team captains "best of luck, have a good game". From the pre-game to the final whistle maintain equality throughout the match, this will add to the enjoyment factor.

E – It is the referee's responsibility to ensure the match is played by the Laws of the Game. Managing the game, and providing a fair and safe environment provides ENJOYMENT for the players, coaches, spectators and the referee. Referees are there for the players. Do what is best "For the Good of the Game"!