



24-Hour Rule Policy

Volunteer coaches are essential to providing organized youth athletics an existence.

As parents, we will not always agree with a coach's decision. However, it is important to recognize that the coach's role is to make decisions for the team first and a player second. Often, we tend to recognize the coaching staffs' decisions through our player first and the team second. Also, we need to understand that most players are not aware of any problem until we, as parents, bring it to their attention.

For parents, it is important to separate their child's sports development from game emotions. For this reason, we have a "24-Hour Rule" which simply states that coaches will not discuss a game/practice or situation in a game/practice until at least 24 hours after the fact.

- Parents/guardians are not allowed to confront a coach, team or league director to discuss any negative game or practice situation with the coach until at least 24 hours has passed from the completion of the game or practice.
- A confrontation shall consist of any conversation, which elevated from a normal speaking tone and demeanor to one which involves yelling, profanity or derogatory comments toward said coach, team or league director.

Youth sports can be an emotional experience. The physical activity of the kids can often spill onto the sidelines and into the stands and create strong reactions in coaches and parents. The intense emotional aspect of soccer is one of the reasons it is exciting to watch, but it is important to have a "cooling off" period so that emotions do not cloud judgment.

If parent/guardian(s) respect the 24-hour rule, their concerns are more likely to be fully addressed in reasoned discussion. More importantly, the kids' enjoyment of a game won't be marred by an ill-timed confrontation. The intent of this rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the players, and to allow the parties to "cool off", compose themselves, and put the incident or situation that occurred in the game in perspective before meeting to discuss it.

Violation of the 24-Hour Rule Policy will be handled by the USCAA Travel and Rec Soccer Commissioners and can result in parent/guardian(s) being suspended from attending games or practices to players of the parent/guardian(s) being removed from their team.

Issues beyond disagreements between parent/guardian(s) and coaches like violation of laws or abuse of players should be brought to the USCAA Commissioners immediately.

Regards,

USCAA Travel and Rec Soccer Commissioners