

Grassroots Refereeing

Sheffield RA met on Thursday 16th February 2017 and discussed how RESPECT can be improved, and how all parties can improve football together.

Referee strike campaign was discussed and acknowledged that the campaign had raised the profile, but referees present wanted to look at different ways to improve the all round game.

We started with the proposal of Body Cams?

It was thought potentially behaviour may improve or footage may help the local CFA when charging players.

Other opinions: A well written report will be supported by CFA, most cases that are found no case to answer is through badly written reports. Solution better training. (More later)

The cost of body cams will have an implication, and some having them and others not would have implications.

There are legal implications especially around children
Having body cams doesn't deal with the problem.

If it comes to needing body cams might as well turn the lights off and go home

CPD

Training: Tutors, Coaches, must do a certain number of hours per year to keep their licence / badges. Assessors / Observers are expected to attend training nights.

Why don't referees have compulsory training annually.

Can be delivered by CFA, RAFA event, local RA or Ref Support UK

All to liaise with RDO of referees who attended.

Downside, referee numbers could fall, however long term would they grow again, better trained officials, less drop out, less abuse. Better written misconduct reports, punishment towards correct individuals.

Change the culture in the referee, fitness tests for all promotions, a staggered distance each level, improving referees all round game.

Aim: Referees to ref every game like it's a cup final

Responsibility of Clubs:

Both Teams Manager / Club responsible for the behaviour of players / spectators at a game. This needs more publicity, referees need to be able to stop player and ask the managers / clubs to sort individuals out.

Premier League:

Top flight players partly to blame, behaviour seen by millions on TV.

THE FA

RESPECT campaign needs to last longer than 7 days and the FA need to get behind it.

Issues behind man hours and resources, and full support

Fines and punishments not large enough

Charter Standard what's it worth and is it bad if removed due to not following RESPECT.

CFA's

More hands on, not just about sending a letter

Feeding back to referees, leagues and clubs whose made a complaint where the case is

More prominent press releases regards respect and direct to clubs.

Control of their own respect campaign.

Leagues:

Refs to be contacted after incidents

All leagues to run report system for referees

Discipline Manager contacting teams regards incidents, not waiting for CFA.

Leagues not to award fixtures to teams until discipline sorted.

Feedback

More resource to deal with misconduct quicker

More Money from the top

previous discipline records took into account

more substantial fines and bans, accepting reports from other people, even if referee isn't aware.

Give leagues more powers to deal with issues, including junior football. Help teams deal with undisciplined parents.

Whole game system, recommend referees write reports in Word, checking spelling before copy and paste into Whole game system.