

# INDIANA SOCCER UNITED PROGRAM

Captain's Role



# WHAT IS UNITED

- ◉ Understanding
- ◉ Need for encouragement
- ◉ Integrity
- ◉ Together
- ◉ Enjoy the game
- ◉ Development



# WHY UNITED

- ◉ There is a 32% turnover rate of referees each year.
- ◉ Of all of the referees in Indiana, 61% are under the age of 18.
- ◉ To improve player, coach, and adult discipline.
- ◉ To help create a learning and enjoyable environment for youth soccer.



*“It’s not enough to be a great player  
to be a captain. You have to be a great  
leader who commands and shows  
Respect”.*

*Fabio Capello, England Manager*



# ROLES OF THE CAPTAIN

- ◉ Wear captain's armband. The league will supply these to the teams.
- ◉ Introduce yourself to the referee and opposing captain prior to the start of the match.
- ◉ Meet with the referee(s) and the opposing captain prior to the start of the match.
- ◉ Captain's manage their own teams (including the coach) to ensure that harassment and opinions from other players do not occur.
- ◉ Captain's should know what is "undesired" behavior prior to the match with regard to harassment and challenging.



# ROLES OF THE CAPTAIN

## (CONTINUED)

- ◉ The captain is the only person allowed to openly ask for clarification for a referee's decision before, during, or after a match.
- ◉ The captain should relay any concerns from the coach to the referee at halftime.
- ◉ The captain is not exempt from behavior that is deemed disrespectful to the official, opponent, and to the game.
- ◉ A backup captain should be assigned by each team just in case the captain is unable to attend or finish the match.
- ◉ Thank the referee(s) after the match.



# ROLES OF THE REFEREE(S)

- Meet with the captain's prior to the match and at halftime to discuss examples of undesired behavior:
  - **Harassment:**
    - Running towards the referee in an aggressive manner.
    - Surrounding the referee to protest a decision.
    - Repeatedly asking questions about decisions in an attempt to influence the referee or undermine his/her responsibilities.
  - **Challenging:**
    - Passing comment to other players about a referee's decision-making.
    - Repeatedly moaning at the referee about decisions.
    - Gestures that obviously are made in a derogatory manner, such as a shaking of the head or waving of the hand.
- Manage the game. Work with both team's captains to ensure fair play and curb down dissent.



# ROLES OF THE REFEREE

## (CONTINUED)

- If players and/or coaches openly challenge the referee, they should first get a public warning. This is provided if a player has not committed an offense that clearly falls under Law 12.
- If players, including the captain, and/or coaches continue to openly challenge the referee they (individual) should be cautioned and shown a yellow card.
- If players, including the captain, and/or coaches continue to openly challenge the referee after they (individual) have been cautioned a second yellow card should be shown. The individual shall then be shown away from the field.
- Thank the team captains after the match.



# ROLES OF THE COACH(ES)

- ◉ Inform the captain of their role in the match with regard to communicating with the referee.
- ◉ Understand that the captain is the only person that is allowed to communicate to the referee.
- ◉ Communicate to the captain any concerns at halftime to discuss with the referee.
- ◉ Manage your team, not the referee.
- ◉ No discussions, questions, etc. will be allowed before, during or after the match with the referee(s). If you have concerns privately communicate to your captain.
- ◉ Failure to comply with the UNITED - Captains Program may result in league sanctions.