

TECHNICAL AREA

from... **Columbia Youth Soccer Association – Rules & Regulations**

Rule 5.5

Deviating from FIFA Rules, Both teams shall be on one side of the field and all spectators shall be on the other side of the field. A technical area shall be marked from the halfway line to the top of the penalty area and two yards back from the touch line for each team. Only players and coaches listed on the approved roster are allowed in the technical area. It shall be the responsibility of each team to maintain proper spectator conduct. Each coach, manager, and team, club or league official shall be held primarily accountable for the conduct of the spectators for or from their respective teams. At no time shall foul or abusive language be permitted at any field.

Coaching is understood as giving directions to one's team on points of strategy and position. No mechanical or electronic devices are to be used. The tones of voice must be informative; no coach is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referee, players or spectators.

If a coach receives a "send-off" (red card) by the referee – an assistant coach may continue to coach the team.

Coaches and assistant coaches are to be shown cards like players under WSYSYA rules of competition.

From Jim Allen's [Ask the Referee](#) website

Your question:

Do the laws mention anything regarding coaches only being able to (suggest) talk to the players on the field about "Tactical" information? Supposedly comes from Law 5 under the bench behavior regarding "dissent and inciting" to the referee.

My answer (October 14, 1999):

Law 5 tells us that team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner may, at the referee's discretion, be expelled from the field of play and its immediate surrounds. The section on The Technical Area repeats this information and restricts communication from the technical area to the players on the field to one person at a time, who must then return to his position away from the touch line immediately after giving them instructions. By tradition, custom, and usage, coaches are allowed to give their players only tactical instructions. They are not allowed to idly chat with the players nor to speak in any way to the referee. If, in the opinion of the referee, the coach oversteps these bounds, the referee may expel the coach from the game.

Why? Because if the coach has not prepared the team for the game before it starts, there is little he can do during the game to remedy bad situations. It is preferable for everyone concerned if the coach coaches during the week and lets the players play during the game.