

## Field Marshal (Referee Liaison) Program

CMSA is running a pilot project this season in to assist in monitoring and dealing with behavior issues at our games. For this season, we would like the clubs to put this program in place for the following groups:

- All U10 and U12 teams
- All U14 Competitive A and B teams
- All U16 Competitive B teams

to provide a field marshal for every league game. The marshal can be anyone with the exception of the coach or assistant coach.

### Background:

Referee abuse and harassment by spectators and coaches is the main reason why referees, particularly those in their early teens, drop out of the development program resulting in severe shortages of officials at all levels. This unacceptable behavior towards our youth must be addressed as a **priority** particularly if soccer is to have an adequate supply of referees.

All teams noted above participating in CMSA league play must designate an individual (does not have to be the same person for each game) at each game (home and away) to act as a **field marshal**. The **field marshal** of each team shall be a person who is not the coach or assistant coach and their main role will be to act as a deterrent to possible acts of misbehavior by spectators. The **field marshals** will also be available to the referee should a request to do so be made or if a potential problem exists.

### Description of duties:

Please introduce yourself to the referee prior to the start of the game and tell them that you are here to help them if they require it.

Please wear the identifying armband provided by your team. Each team will be given an arm band by CMSA in their team package.

Locate yourself on the spectator side of the field on your teams' side of the halfway.

Monitor the behavior of your teams' parents.

Be visible at half time and full time by walking onto the field with your fellow liaison person from the other team. Walk towards the referee and be ready to assist the referee if needed.

Quickly diffuse potential problems before they arise by either being visible or

calmly speaking with the individual(s) involved.

Deal with, and act on, inappropriate comments, gestures and/or general unsporting behavior directed at referees, players or any other individual by your teams' spectators or coaches but please avoid getting into a confrontation. If someone is still hostile after being asked to calm down, please gather as much information but do not put yourself in a dangerous position.

Submit a brief report in writing to [programs@calgaryminorsoccer.com](mailto:programs@calgaryminorsoccer.com) of any incident that you feel the CMSA should be aware of involving inappropriate behavior by ANY individual. Based on any official report, the CMSA will conduct an investigation into the incident and act accordingly.

It is important that the field marshal remains neutral in any situation, regardless of the referee's call, decision, or actions. The field marshal is NOT to get into an argument, dispute, or confrontation with the referee over the officiating of the game and is to assist the referee when asked upon to do so.

Should you have any questions, please contact Scott Mabee at CMSA.