

Code of Conduct with respect to referees and federation officials

Preamble

Everyone present shall make every effort to interact with referees, federation officials and others participating in that environment in a fair and respectful manner. Fairness means that everyone refrains from insulting, threatening and behaving negatively towards referees, federation officials and other participants. Teams and organisers are to act as role models in this regard.

Objectives

- We maintain and promote the good reputation of our sport.
- We maintain and foster enjoyment and motivation amongst referees and create the best possible conditions for recruiting young talent.
- We create the best possible conditions for referees to ensure optimal preparation for the game and leadership.

Before the game

- Referring negatively to previous events, match programmes etc. shall be refrained from.
- A contact person from the home club or the organisers shall greet the referee when entering the stadium.
- The contact person shall clear up any organisational questions with the referee and delegates and shield them from third parties, if necessary.

During the game

- The responsible persons from the home association and the organisers (in the lower levels of those responsible within the team) shall prevent verbal abuse or other instances of unfair conduct towards the referee, officials and other participants.
- They shall remove people who behave in a disruptive manner, in particular near the substitution zone or by the sidelines.

After the game

- The responsible persons ensure that the referees, officials and other participants can exit the stadium without interference.
- They shall keep individuals who disregard the sporting rules at bay.
- Everyone is to refrain from making unfair accusations against referees, officials and other participants in interviews, media reports and on social media.

Judgemental comments on performances

- Direct criticism or praise of referees' performances may not be shared via e-mail or on social media with those participating either before or during the game. Important messages are to be sent via the official contact persons from the referee department.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct are subject to the Federation's *Wettspielreglement* (WR; Competition Rules) and the *Rechtspflegereglement* (RPR; legal regulation).