



Dealing with Club Officials

We've all been there, with an over excited manager in the technical a little bit over keen to voice their opinion on the decisions we are making. If this situation escalates, and you as the referee end up taking further action, as you are more than entitled to do, we need to make sure we are doing this the right way.

We have had a number of referees recently demand that club officials go "to the carpark" before they restart the game. Now, whilst I understand the sentiment with this statement, on some pitches across the County, the car park can actually be in excess of 300 yards away, quite some distance! At this point, I refer to Law 5 – The Powers & duties of the referee – where it says:

*"The referee takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and may expel them from the **field of play and its immediate surrounds**; a medical team official who commits a dismissible offence may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention"*

Please make sure that we are being fair and reasonable when dismissing a club official from the field of play and its immediate surrounds. A good way to think of it is, if you were refereeing in a UCL ground, and you dismissed a club official, you would only be able to send them out of the technical area to the other side of the barrier. You would have no authority to ask them to leave the ground, or go to the carpark. Please apply a similar logic to dismissing club officials on local park pitches.

If the club official in question is the designated physio, you can't force them to leave, but their behaviour does still need to be reported to the NFA, and must mention the fact that if they weren't the physio, you would've sent them away from the technical area.

Luke Scott, NFA Referee Development Officer.