



# AP-SJ Official Mentorship & Development



## Coach's Information for Talking to Officials, Official Abuse, and Issues with Officials

### In my experience as a coach and an official:

It is very easy to forget that most officials are kids and only see the stripes.

**Referees will not change the call** in any circumstance; that is how they are taught.

Yelling is never an option.

### Before talking to the coach Referees consider:

- Is this a **good time** to interrupt game flow?
- Is the coach so irate that I **may need to penalize?** If so, stay away.
- Is the situation **severe enough** to warrant a discussion with the coach?
- Are **captains a better option?**

### Referees use different ways to communicate:

- Tell a player on the ice** (usually a "C" or "A" but if non available then the referee will choose someone),
- Go to the bench, **talk to the coach**,
- Ask for a "C" or an "A"** to come over.

### Options the coach has to communicate (in order of preference):

- Send your "C" or "A"**,
- Jot down the question and **ask at the intermission** (no interruption to game flow),
- Ask the referee to come to the bench** if the coach feels calm.

### What a conversation at the bench looks like:

- You ask **a question**.
- The **referee answers** it.
- The puck gets dropped.

Trying to convince the referee of something will not change a call. Your only goal when talking to the referee is to ask for clarification of what they saw so you can coach your team more effectively.

### What to do if you feel the referee was behaving inappropriately physically or verbally abusing other game participants:

- Hockey Winnipeg SR-17
  - Wait 48 hours**
  - Send email to executive director

### What to do if you feel the referee's ability to do his or her job was poor:

- Wait 48 hours**,
- Send email to [apsj.ric@gmail.com](mailto:apsj.ric@gmail.com),
- Emails that do not observe the 48 hour rule will be discarded.

### What else should you know:

- Referees report abuse to the area association **whether a penalty is called or not**,
- APSJ are trying different ways to address issues between referees and game participants; the goal is to **improve communication** not get people in trouble.