



To: State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
Chair, State Referee Committee
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment
National Referees, Assessors and Instructors

cc: State Presidents
State Directors of Coaching

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Subject: Management of Behavior in the Technical Area

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The "technical area" is provided for in International Board Decision 8 of Law 1 (The Field of Play) and, in more detail, in the section labeled "The Technical Area" in the Law book. Additionally, the permissible behavior of team officials as regards the technical area is described in International Board Decision 2 of Law 3 (The Number of Players).

USSF's annual law change memorandum for 2004 noted that "many matches are played on fields which have no designated technical area." This is particularly the case in youth and at lower competitive levels. USSF advised that, in such cases, the referee could "sketch out an approximation of team technical areas for game control purposes."

In general, as far as matters which pertain to the responsibilities of the referee, only three types of persons are permitted within the technical area, depending on the rules of competition:

- Players temporarily off the field with the permission of the referee,
- Substitutes (including substituted players), and
- Team officials.

The category of "team official" includes but is not limited to such persons as coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and other medical support persons, together with any other persons formally associated with the team which the rules of competition allow. These rules may or may not specify that team officials must be named (e.g., included on a team roster), but the Laws of the Game require that the team roster list and identify the players and substitutes. Rules of competition may also mandate standards of dress for team officials

