

REF FEEDBACK FROM 2013 MEETING

Note from League Executive:

The following notes are a compilation of the feedback gathered from the refs from the 2013 meeting. They may be helpful for planning future sessions. From the Executive's perspective, the consensus of those who attended was that we should not have a representative from the Refs' Association next year and focus more on discussion between captains and refs. Such a meeting would call for an agenda with specific topics both sides would like to cover, and a strong moderator/chair to keep things going. It was also agreed that 60 minutes was a bit short. No one minds ending early if discussion finishes, but it is frustrating to rush a meeting and not have time for full discussion.

Ref Feedback

Ref #1: For those of us refereeing youth soccer with mandated monthly 2 hour education sessions on the back of the 5 hour season kick off session, there is nothing new in Nick's presentation; it is in fact repeat. If it was for captain education, hopefully they all got something from it.

Ref #2: To make the session most valuable for the group assembled I believe it should be focused on league-specific game issues. My vote would be for more discussion on topics put forth by the teams/captains and the assembled referees with an intent of establishing a common approach to managing the games.

Ref #3:

a) I think Nick's education session is very important for the captains (and thereby the teams) so they have a better understanding of the rules and thus why the refs make (or don't make) certain calls. Education is never wasted.

b) have a tighter timeline for the education session (so it doesn't run on too long), and thus leave more time for captains to provide feedback to the refs.

c) an hour is way too short for this session - it easily ran for 1.5 hours, and should be planned accordingly.

I can't decide if an interspersed seating arrangement for the refs and captains is beneficial or not - pros/cons both ways. The fact that so many refs are there shows their level of commitment, so separate seating simply helps each group be focused as to when the topics are theirs to discuss and doesn't (or shouldn't) indicate any form of "us vs them" mentality. Interspersed seating may lead to off-line side chats between individuals, and increased discussions by both groups when what is required is discussion/response from one specific group (e.g., either captains or refs).

Ref #4: Thanks for the opportunity. However, the key is to accommodate the needs of the captains and league.

Ref #5: From my own perspective, and in no specific order, I have the following thoughts

1. The more input the better from the captains
2. The more specific to the league the better - you have a very specific league in that it is all women, who are generally good friends and know each other
3. The questions regarding any changes can be answered fairly quickly leaving.
4. In general the approach of the BCSRA including in their own sessions is the lecture and rule oriented approach. Nick follows that format. I don't get too much out of that format (I appreciate that the video example used in this year's was more relevant to our league than the English Premiership.
5. My own sense that game management is as important than the Rules.
6. I wonder if interspersing the refs and the captains might not enhance the discussion.
7. I thought Lori Miller's contribution was helpful because she spoke about the experience in a similar league.

These are just some varied thoughts.

Two additional thoughts,

1. It is good that you have such sessions
2. The level of attendance by the refs shows how much they care about and enjoy participating in the league.