

Respect Barrier information taken from WDYFL Web site 21.11.09:

Thanks to those of you who have contacted me about Respect matters; there has also been an interesting thread on the forum. The common theme through both methods of contact is the use of barriers and where people should stand. Some confusion has arisen because of the differences between the Respect guidelines and rule 2J in the WDYFL handbook. There are a number of actions that can be taken against Coaches; Team Managers; Club Officials; Young Players and Spectators and parents/carers. Dependent on the nature of the 'offence' the sanctions can be imposed by the club, the County FA or the FA and range from warnings to suspensions or fines, individually or for the club.

Full details can be found here: <http://thefa.com/Leagues/Respect.aspx>

The committee feel that everyone has now had time to get used to the requirements of the Respect campaign, so future complaints will result in action and enforcement by the League and relevant County FA, rather than the 'polite advice' approach which has been taken up to now.

It is only fair, therefore to clarify the League's stance on the issues that have been raised:

The intention of Rule 2J is to ensure that managers and substitutes are the only people who are permitted to stand on the 'non-barriered' side, but the wording of this rule has led to subsequent discussion. Some Referees have pointed out that they don't have problems with managers standing on the 'barriered' side, or, in the case of a team lucky to have a manager and assistant manager, one on either side of the field of play. Managers have also made similar representations.

Until such time as the League Rules are reviewed, the guidance which the League expect all clubs (for ALL age groups) to follow is clarified below:

The over-riding principle is that the safety of spectators, players and officials is paramount.

Barriers WILL be used and WILL be placed at least 2 metres back from the touchline.

Where the 'Respect' barriers are not available for whatever reason, some form of 'barrier' must be in place.

e.g. In exceptionally windy conditions, the barrier poles could remain in place, but without the tape; or if a club has teams playing at more than one location simultaneously, or does not have sufficient barriers, a rope on poles or laid on the ground, a line of cones, or a line marked on the grass will all suffice.

ALL spectators, except managers, assistant managers and substitutes WILL stand behind the barriers.

Nobody, including, managers, assistant managers and substitutes, will stand behind the goal.

Managers, assistant managers and substitutes are the only people who are allowed to stand on the 'non-barriered' side.

Subject to the referee's approval, they may stand on the 'barriered' side; if this is agreed the position will always be pitch-side (in front) of the barrier.

The default position will be on the 'non-barriered' side. If approval has been given by the referee to stand on the 'barriered' side, this approval can be withdrawn at any time by the referee if it is considered that it is causing any problem.

Inevitably there will be circumstances where it is impractical to comply fully with these instructions; what is important and what is expected is that these instructions are not ignored. Every effort must be made to comply with the instructions. In the event of a complaint being made, the actions taken by a club to comply will be taken into consideration when action or sanctions are being considered.

Finally, on the matter of complaints: please contact me on the respect@wdyfl.org email address rather than use the forum. That way you will get a definitive answer, rather than lots of different opinions.

Steve Fisher

WDYFL Respect Officer