

# COYSA Field Marshall Policy

## **Purpose of this policy**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to COYSA and member club Board members when they act as Field Marshals at regular COYSA games and special events.

## **Structure**

The Field Marshalls shall be comprised of the Chairpersons of the five clubs and in addition the clubs shall nominate a minimum of one other board member each to serve as Field Marshalls. The Field Marshalls shall take direction from the Discipline Committee,

including special field assignments and co-ordination of reports. The Field Marshalls are fully responsible to the COYSA board. The Field Marshalls shall also provide feedback at a debriefing meeting held for this purpose at season's end.

## **Identification**

In order to effectively carry out their role as a Field Marshal, the board members must be readily identifiable. This will be achieved by the use of high visibility vests supplied by COYSA and bearing the COYSA name.

## **Role of the Field Marshall**

The main role of the Field Marshal is to be a visible presence of COYSA at our league games and tournaments, and to support our referees. This presence at league games will be random rather than scheduled. Additional Marshalls may be scheduled for tournaments.

Duties shall include:

- a) A record of the games in which they preside.
- b) Check in with the game official at the earliest convenience.
- c) Walk around, be visible.
- d) Promote COYSA and our game.
- e) Maintain a calm and professional demeanor at all times.

Conflicts: The Field Marshalls are available when people have a question or a concern on the field such as dealing with abusive coaches or parents.

- f) Explaining and reinforcing COYSA's zero tolerance abuse policy to parents and coaches is sometimes all that is required.
- g) If a referee cannot control the situation on the field, and has been given every opportunity to do so, the Field Marshall may step in to take control, diffuse the situation and return control to the referee. The Field Marshall may, after conferring with the referee:
  - 1) call a 10 minute halt to the game
  - 2) act as a liaison between referees and all parties to diffuse the situation.
  - 3) help to eject offenders.

- h) If the Field Marshall cannot control the situation, walk away and perform the following:

**OBSERVE:** obtain a clear picture of the events as they are happening

**DOCUMENT:** record the events as quickly as possible while you can

**REPORT:** turn in the written information to the Discipline Committee immediately.

- i) All referee calls and decisions are final. Field Marshalls should employ diplomacy when dealing with complaints.
- j) The Field Marshall may, in conjunction with the referee, perform roster checks to determine player eligibility.

Field Marshalls may also:

- 1) help get games under way on time when a new referee is having difficulty initiating start times.
- 2) explain COYSA programs and policies.
- 3) solicit feedback on our programs.
- 4) recruit volunteers.
- 5) promote tournaments.

### **Limitations**

Field Marshals should remove their identifying apparel when they are coaching.

When the Field Marshal is no longer a member of the COYSA or Club board, they must surrender their identifying apparel.

### **Resources**

In order to do their jobs well, the Field Marshals should have a binder with the following content:

- a) COYSA Handbook
- b) Schedules
- c) Coach, player & parent codes of conduct (extra copies for distribution)