

Use of a “Camera” for Game Management

Your eyes function similar to a camera when you are refereeing. When you have everything develop in front of you, you then take a picture. Then you develop that picture (visual) into your brain at a high rate of speed with a decision. You are constantly taking pictures (80+ minutes) throughout the entire match with your eyes as the “camera”.

An analogy to refereeing a soccer match with a camera is like driving a car. You are constantly taking pictures of what cars that are in front and behind you are doing, what traffic is approaching, speed limit, passing a car, changing gears, applying the brake, and many hundreds of operations that are repeated throughout your trip.

You do the same in a soccer match and your constant mental focus throughout a match will improve your ability to control soccer matches.

Expect to be challenged or tested in every soccer match that you officiate. Sometimes a quick message to a player or coach will get your point across like, “coach, that’s enough”. Having a short, concise phrase that can be directed to a player or coach enhances your ability to control the match.

Conversations between you and a player or coach are over when **you** declare them to be, not when they naturally end. What is important about this step in the communication process with a player or coach is, when a message is conveyed with authority, there can be **no** doubt that the referee “meant business”.

Any second-guessing by an official leads to self-doubt and lack of confidence, and this undermines the ability of the official to maintain control. Don't make idle threats that can't be backed up.

Effectively managing players and coaches involves communicating with them in such a way that galvanizes their attention and causes them to respond to you positively.