

Referee Complaint and Protest Policy

- You may only discuss the referee's decision or lack thereof with your coaching staff in a positive and constructive manner on the sideline during a game. Remember, your players, who are sitting on the bench can hear everything.
- If you have a complaint about the referee's decision or conduct, you have the right to politely ask the referee about his/her decision. The referee, however, is not required to respond to your inquiry when time is running. You may get better results if you discuss your concern, in a respectful manner, with the center referee during half time or after the game. Always address the center referee even if the assistant referee is the one with the questionable decision or conduct. Always take another coach with you when you approach the center referee during half time or after the game.
- Players and coaches are required to shake the referees hands after each game no matter what happened during the game. Even if the referees called a hideous game, you, your coaches and your players must shake hands with the referees. If you or your team prefer to not shake the referees hands, I will make every effort to ensure you/the team receive the maximum disciplinary action for unsporting behavior.
- Do not blame the referees for your loss. If you feel the referee truly made a wrong decision and it directly impacted the outcome of the game where your team could have prevailed, you may protest the game. The procedure for protesting the game is located on the Delgado website at <http://www.delgadosoccer.org/files/Delgado%20Playing%20Rules.pdf>. Email your protest to the Aptos Advanced Soccer Coordinator (dougevers@hughes.net). It will then be forwarded to the Santa Cruz County Delgado Rep. The Delgado Rep will then forward the protest to the Delgado League. Be sure to read the protesting procedure before you play a game.
- Remember, you are responsible for your players', parents' and assistant coaches conduct. You set the tone for their behavior at every game. If you have a coach, player or parent who is yelling negative connotations or any derivative thereof, it is your responsibility to defuse the behavior as soon as it is brought to your attention.
- If you have an unresolved complaint about a referee(s), you may contact the Aptos Advanced Soccer Coordinator (dougevers@hughes.net) via email. Make sure you are well versed with the rules of the game before placing a complaint. There is no tolerance for coaches who do not know the laws of the game and complain about a referee. Please file the complaint ASAP after the game so it is fresh in everyone's mind. Always include witnesses and their contact information. We take referee complaints very serious. Please ensure you have a good case before proceeding.