



### Background:

In June, 2008 CMSA tracked that 1 in every 9 games were played without a referee. This referee shortage is due to an extremely low retention rate of officials which is often caused by team official and spectator abuse. This abuse can come in many forms, but in particular, verbal abuse which is personal, provocative and public in regards to the referee's on-field performance.

This unacceptable behavior towards our youth and new officials must be addressed as a **priority** particularly if soccer is to have an adequate supply of referees. The Field Marshall Program is intended to power one individual from each team to speak up on behalf of the referee among their fellow parents/spectators.

### Specifics:

- All teams participating in CMSA league play must designate an individual at each game (home and away) to act as a Field Marshall.
  - The **only** exceptions are U18 Tier I and U16 Tier I teams, as they have 3 referees assigned to each game
- The individual acting as the Field Marshall must be named on the team's game sheet
- The Field Marshall must be introduced to the referee prior to the start of the game and be checked off by the referee
- The Field Marshall is to wear the arm band provided by CMSA as identification

### Responsibilities:

- Locate yourself on the spectator side of the field on your teams' side of the halfway.

- Monitor the behavior of your teams' parents.
- The Field Marshall is expected to act on behalf of the referee by reminding parents to keep their comments to themselves and refrain from vocalizing their complaints during the game
- Quickly diffuse potential problems before they arise by either being visible or calmly speaking with the individual(s) involved.
- Deal with, and act on, inappropriate comments, gestures and/or general unsporting behavior directed at referees, players or any other individual by your teams' spectators or coaches but please avoid getting into a confrontation. If someone is still hostile after being asked to calm down, please gather as much information but do not put yourself in a dangerous position.
- The Field Marshall is **not** expected to put themselves in a situation which may compromise their safety and instead are asked to contact Shannon (CMSA Referee Mentor) at [referees@calgaryminorsoccer.com](mailto:referees@calgaryminorsoccer.com)
- The Field Marshall is expected to support the referee when requested by the official to do so
- Any questions/comments/complaints/compliments in regards to the officiating should be directed to Shannon at [referees@calgaryminorsoccer.com](mailto:referees@calgaryminorsoccer.com) and not the referee

#### Fines:

- The fine for not participating in the Field Marshall Program shall follow the fee structure for Defaulted Games:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: no default fine, Warning Letter
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$50 default fine
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$50 default fine
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: \$50 default fine
- Any team found to be consistently not participating in the program shall be subject to further disciplinary action.