

# **FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY – INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

## **Working With Captains**

**"Referees need to concentrate on the game 100%, and not be distracted by continued verbal harassment."**



### **The Captain Policy**

On each and every intramural team there is a designated captain. This role is not just for show, but is actually an important position. Captains are the representatives for their team; they are the only ones that are allowed to confer with the officials. This serves as an effective method of game control. If all players were permitted to speak with the officials, games could quickly degenerate into 6 on 1 screaming matches. Rather, the captains serve as a link between the officials and the teams.

Captains are allowed to ask questions, discuss a play, or otherwise inquire about the game. As officials, we should hear these discussions out. Once the captain is done asking their questions, or discussing and issue with the official, the official should give their feedback on what they saw and why they called the play the way they did. After the officials explanation, both parties should resume play and the game should be carried on. It's important as an official to listen to the captains of each team as long as they are talking in a calm and respectful manner.

### **The Captains Meeting**

The officiating crew will conduct the Captains' Meeting before each and every game. The basic guidelines for the captains' role will be explained. It is also a good time to review any big rules or common fouls that occur in that given sport.

Ask the Captains if they have any questions and conclude the meeting by wishing both teams luck.

Some sports, like football and soccer, require that a coin flip be administered. Be professional and controlled - this is the recognized start of the match.

This meeting should not be used as a rules session or as a means to threaten the captains to behave.

Remind them they are responsible for their behavior, their team's behavior and the behavior of their fans. No further commentary is necessary.





## Working With Captains

- Approach a captain with a level head and speak to the captain the way you would wish to be spoken to.
- Learn to respond to a captain, not to react to a captain.
- Be firm, but not overbearing, positive but not rude, dignified but never cocky.
- Never respond to a complaining, screaming captain by screaming back or being verbally out of control. Remain calm when responding to complaints.
- Never threaten a captain verbally or with aggressive body language e.g. pointing a finger, hands on hips, etc.
- Remember and understand that captains have an obligation to defend their players or their own actions.
- Expect that there will be discussions and possible arguments during a competitive game. The closer the call, the more likely that a captain will have something to challenge the official about.
- Remember an official does not have to have the last word in a discussion with a captain.
- Exercise patience and common sense when dealing with an irate captain.
- Attitude is everything. If you go to a game with a good attitude, you will probably have a good game.

