



9/17/2015

Re: Recent Problems during Games

This past couple of weeks with the start up of the 2015 season has been the worst I have seen since my involvement with the Ute Conference.

We have tried to implement over the past several years a better training and processes. Here is a list of Processes Implemented over the last few years:

1. Better training for Coaches, Board Members and Districts. (Meetings on financials and budgets, USA Football on line tutorials)
2. Educating our District officials, coaches and officers to assure that we are Teaching proper techniques for drills and tackling procedures.
3. Training Referees to know and better understand the game and penalties, required training meetings each year
4. Training and enforcement on sideline behavior during games, running background checks, and wearing I D badges so we know who is coaching and who should be on sideline.
5. Chain crew vests for the people to wear running the down markers so they are identified.
6. Ute Conference Stamped footballs so we are using the right size and legal footballs.
7. Field Security uniformed police officers at each game which unfortunately comes at a great expense
8. Professional trainers to assist in injuries.
9. USA Football and Sports Med of Utah to educate proper hitting and making all aware of concussion concerns and preventable measures.

After all of these items being implemented Board Member, Coach and Parental Behavior is Unacceptable! **The Good of the Player whom is our primary concern.** The number of Ejections we have had over the past two weeks and the Sideline behavior from Coaches, Parents, Relatives is inexcusable. Bottom line, the adults involved are not setting a good example for these young people playing the game of football. In many cases it is reflecting how the players are acting and reacting to play calls and penalties assessed during the games.

I want everyone to look at High School, College and the NFL and think how many times you have seen a coach ejected from a game over the past several years. How many players do you see ejected? Not VERY MANY! When is the last time you have seen a coach on the professional level ejected from a game starting with the high school level? When it does happen the penalties are severe.

From a Youth Program like the Ute Conference just this past weekend 5 coaches ejected, 7 players ejected. That is more than all the High School games in Utah , College Games and NFL games played this past weekend. And this is Little League Football!

We have got to get this fixed! As of right now I am instituting a **ZERO TOLERANCE FOR BAD BEHAVIOR POLICY.** I am asking everyone to communicate with Coaches, Parents, District officers, and let them know that any poor Sportsmanship, Foul Language, Obscene gestures or any deemed act by society as poor behavior will be ejected from the field with additional penalties as well. Any coach not wearing a badge will be asked to leave the coaching area immediately. **Sideline behavior and foul language on the field of play, or at practices needs to stop immediately. THESE YOUNG PLAYERS ARE NOT ON SCHOLARSHIP! DON'T TREAT THEM LIKE THEY ARE!**

Outcomes of games are not determined by the referees. The Officials at games will make mistakes, they will miss-calls, it happens not only at our level but at all other levels of the game on up to the NFL, but these men officiating the game do not deserve to be called names, or yelled out through out a game. We have officials that are quitting, and no longer want to have anything to do with the Ute Conference because of the abusive language and the way they are treated.

It will get to a point if this continues we will have less experienced officials. Veteran Officials, good officials no longer want to be a part of the Conference. That is a sad statement.

I am concerned and I am asking for help and support. Get the word to all your Coaches and Parents immediately. I realize that there are a lot of people coaches and district board members putting in a lot of time volunteering, and are handling issues professionally, but all it takes is a few that cause problems for the majority.

Let's make sure we are doing our part and make this a fun, enjoyable, and positive learning experience for these young kids playing the game of football.

Mike Matich
Commissioner