



Junior Premier Hockey



Re: Technical Officers Memorandum:

The Technical Officer (TO) is the central point of contact during a match, and it is the responsibility of the TO to ensure that the team staff or players do not distract the umpires. Please keep in mind that different umpires have different levels of tolerance. You must be proactive to ensure that the umpires are able to stay focused on the players and the game.

Any distractions from the sideline must be dealt with immediately by the TO.

The umpires have been instructed to report any problems they have directly to the TO, who must immediately be responsive to solving those problems so they can stay focused on the game and players on the pitch.

Other than using your own personal strengths in managing relationships with others, I have highlighted a few suggestions in dealing and hopefully avoiding any problems.

1 - Be visible - Position yourself standing at pitch level in front of the technical table where it is natural for people to come to you if there are concerns. Move closer to a team bench if you notice something escalating.

2 - Build relationships - Work with the team's staff and umpires to be responsive to their needs when things are going well. Everyone will be more willing to work with you when things are not going well if they already trust and respect that you will do what is best for the game.

3 - Be proactive - Be clear with what you want from the start. Move stick bags away from the sidelines and front of the bench at the start of the match. Ask coaches and players to step back as you see the play change direction and the umpires start to turn to move down the sideline. Notice when coaches might start to complain and be available for them to talk to you (rather than to the umpire) or give them a look or word that calms them down and helps them refocus on coaching their players.

4 - Don't sweat the small stuff - Keep the sideline space open and clear for the umpires, but do not be picky about things that do not affect the match (i.e. coaches are allowed to step up to the sideline [but NOT on the pitch] to coach their players as long as the umpire's movement or vision is not impeded)

5 - There are times when situations become tense during a match or due to the team staff choosing not to respect the requests or instructions of the TO. Should this occur, you must be firm and protect the integrity of the game.

a - Ask nicely of the team staff to respect your request and instructions;

b - Warn that you are going to have to ask him or her to sit on the team bench for "1 minute";

c - Instruct him or her to sit on the bench for "1 minute";

d - If they continue to show disrespect to you and or the Umpires by affecting the match in a way that is in violation of the rules or regulations, then you (TO) should ask them to leave the bench area;

e - The TD can choose to hold a hearing after a match to decide on possible suspension of one or more matches;

Lurah Hess
JPH Technical Director