

All LSC Parents, Coaches, Players and Fans:

On behalf of the more than 150 referees who worked Livingston Soccer Club Intown matches this season, we hope that everyone had a great season and (for those involved) Carpini Cup. We were fortunate enough to have beautiful weather and an outstanding collection of players, parents, and coaches.

A few things for all of us to remember as this season ends ... and hopefully remember again when the next season begins (whether it be soccer or any other sport).

1. PERSPECTIVE - The outcome of the Carpini Cup (or any other youth sporting event) is entirely unimportant. Hopefully, the soccer season has provided you and your family with fond memories of goals scored, saves made, new friends made (for both kids and adults) and great family weekends.

The KIDS very quickly get over losses, even if they feel a better outcome was deserved and perhaps the referee was not perfect. As parents and coaches, we need to do the same.

2. We ALL need to set a good example; that means being respectful to the referees, our own coaches, opposing coaches, Board members, and all players on all teams. We encourage our referees (and Board members) to exhibit that same level of courtesy and respect; however, it starts with all of us off the field first, as we set the tone for how everyone else will act, as well. If coaches and/or parents are disrespecting the referee, then the players (at all ages) will understand that this is acceptable ... or even encouraged.

4. Since no one is perfect... "MISTAKES" happen. Imagine you are working at your job and every time you made a decision (even a minor one), somebody (or more than a few somebodies) screamed that you were wrong? and then blamed you (to everyone who would listen) for how your alleged incompetence was hurting them? and that you shouldn't be allowed to work any more? Realize that this is what our referees deal with every weekend.

Also bear in mind that what you may think is a "mistake" by the referee likely isn't, because virtually every call (or non-call) is a judgement, and therefore subject to interpretation ... and the referee is undoubtedly in a better position than someone standing (or sitting) on the sideline.

No one (referee or Board member) WANTS to discipline a player (with a yellow or red card) or coach/parent (by requiring someone leave the sideline or bench area). It is a last resort and done in the interest of preserving a safe, fair, and appropriate environment for players, coaches, spectators, and referees.

5. Most importantly:

We had more than 150 different referees work at least one game this season, and dozens of different referees work during the Carpini Cup. Every single one of them lives (or works) in Livingston. They are your children ... your children's friends ... your friends children ... your children's teacher ... your neighbor. We all need to remember this, and act accordingly at all times.

We (Steve) played in the Carpini Cup and (Neil) coached more than 20 Carpini Cup teams among his three sons. We understand that people get excited ... sometimes a little over-excited, even ... and that's fine. We don't want to take that away from anyone. That enthusiasm is part of what this a weekend that you will remember for many years.

If you have any specific concerns or suggestions as to how we can continue to improve our program (both the Carpini Cup and our entire Fall season), we would love to hear from you. Shoot us an e-mail at referee@lsclub.com and we promise that we will get back to you within 24 hours.

Thank you all for another memorable Fall soccer season!

-Neil Grossman and Steve Brooks

Referee Coordinators