

# REFEREES CIRCULAR



Date  
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**ISSUED BY THE NSW REFEREES STANDING  
COMMITTEE FOR ALL NSW SOCCER  
REFEREES**

Issue  
021/07

## **The Management of Dissent**

Dissent is one of the single most destructive factors in any match and serves to reduce the referee's overall match control and authority. It must, in my view, be controlled and managed from the outset of any game.

It is in effect a challenge to the authority of the referee to control a match and enforce the rule of law. Players can, and often will, show dissent in a range of ways both verbal and physical but in either manner the act serves only to diminish the authority of the referee.

Dissent serves to bring about uncertainty about the effectiveness of the match officials and will, if left unmanaged, aid and contribute to a referee experiencing additional difficulty controlling a match.

Visible acts of dissent must be managed without exception or hesitation.

***Players who engage in acts of visible dissent shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card without exception and on further repetition be shown the red card and expelled from the field of play.***

Likewise players who engage in acts of audible dissent must be managed by the referee either by the application of a "public warning" or by the administering of a caution as the individual case dictates.

Dissent does not always require that you caution a player but it does require that you manage the situation without exception. The referee who chooses not to hear verbal dissent or not to see the ball being throw down in disgust is not only making their job harder but sets a poor example for their colleague who will be left to manage it in the future.

Always remember to act on dissent early in the match and to make your response appropriate to the player's actions

State Referees Coach