

ARIZONA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

To: All Member Club Presidents and Directors of Coaching
From: Randy Karg, President, Arizona Soccer Association
Date: February 4, 2020
Re: Advanced Leagues Spectator Sideline Behavior and Seating

Due to the continuing decline in sideline behavior and conduct, the seating arrangement for ASA Advanced Leagues will change effective immediately. The seating arrangement will require parents to sit on the same side of the field as their team, with the team sitting on the half of the field behind the Assistant Referee.

The following illustrates the seating arrangement:



Version with Tech area on one side of the midline.
Recommended distance from Sideline to Spectator Seating or Technical Area is 3-5'. Min 3'
Length of Technical area should be 15'



Coaches and Clubs must be directly responsible for the behavior and conduct of their team's spectators. Coaches will now be on the same sideline as their spectators so that they can directly address any foul language, referee abuse, poor or irresponsible behavior. This close proximity will allow coaches to be more active in ensuring proper behavior takes place.

On a weekly basis, ASA staff has witnessed, had incidents reported to, and has directly been involved in altercations, arguments, and/or blatant disregard for the ASA Code of Conduct Policy¹. While not all incidents will be resolved with a seating change, we strongly believe, based on feedback and best practices from around the country that this will reduce the frequency and opportunity for incidents between spectators/parents as well as referee abuse. The hope and expectation are that this change will not only improve spectator behavior but also provide improved opportunity and easier ability for coaches and team officials to take greater ownership for the behavior of their sidelines.

We all play a role in improving the behavior of those attending youth games. We all must work together to create a better experience for players, parents, coaches, and referees. The seating arrangement will be in effect for all ASA managed events and is recommended for all tournaments.

Seating arrangements alone will not fix our issues. There must be a true partnership between ASA and its member Clubs. We ask that this change receive support from each and every Club and that you assist us in not only getting this message to our coaches and parents but also in ensuring compliance for all of your teams.

This communication is only going to President's and DOC's at this time. No later than Wednesday we will be sending the same communication to all coaches, parents, and referees of Advanced Leagues. We feel that this message, and this change are critically necessary, so we want to ensure everyone is communicated with but, did want to communicate with President's and DOC's first.

If you have any questions regarding this training session, please contact either me or Rick Kelsey.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.
