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Dear Soccer Officials –

As Athletic Directors, we are consistently trying to uphold the core values and philosophies of our individual Districts while also working together as a group. This letter comes to you from the Region 3 Athletic Directors as a whole. We have a small group of representatives who have sat down with the two Presidents of our local soccer official chapters. They discussed the deteriorating behavior and conduct of soccer student athletes towards the officials. The Presidents agree the conduct is out of control and worse in soccer than other sports due to behavior tolerated in club soccer. However, we have agreed to assist in curbing this issue.

As athletic Directors, we will hold soccer coaches to higher expectations in regards to the conduct of their student athletes & themselves and their coaching staffs during the game towards the officials. We will ask them to build a higher capacity towards officials and not to lose their cool during the games, and to be the example/leaders for their student athletes and the crowd as a whole. We are going to have the UIL sportsmanship announcements made at each venue. We will also have the Administrator on Duty introduced to the officials pre-game to ensure they are easily identifiable in case the officials need their assistance. We hope these actions will help in creating a positive environment for both our officials and student athletes.

As officials, we are asking you to have minimal tolerance when it comes to student athletes being disrespectful and talking back to you. The student athletes and coaches both are aware of tolerable and acceptable behavior. We are asking you to issue them yellow and red cards when necessary to set the tone for the behavior that will be expected from all student athletes. Then, we as a District can take disciplinary actions against our Coaches and student athletes to help reinforce the inappropriate behavior.

Please consider this letter as our show of support from the entire Region 3 Athletic Directors. Allow us to all work together to bring the pride and sportsmanship back to high school soccer.

Thank you for your time,

Region 3 Athletic Directors