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State Directors of Assessment  
State Directors of Coaching

From: Alfred Kleinaitis  
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: **Matters Involving Persons in the Technical Area**

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Recently, two issues have arisen which need clarification regarding the behavior of various persons in the technical area (substitutes and team officials). The first issue involves their participation in the celebration of a goal and the second issue involves providing assistance to injured players.

**Goal Celebration.** The celebration of a goal is a natural, expected, and entirely acceptable part of the excitement of the game. However, celebrations must be kept within reasonable bounds and the participation of persons in the technical area is more restricted than it is for players.

- All persons in the technical area are required to remain in the technical area, just as they are during play.
- They must not allow their exuberance to include such actions as overturning benches, pounding on boards, hitting canopies, or throwing anything onto the field.
- While substitutes and team officials may certainly jump up in celebration, they must limit their action to the area in front of their bench.
- Understanding the excitement of the team which has just scored a goal, referees must use common sense in enforcing these restrictions. Fourth officials and the near assistant referee should monitor this behavior and use persuasion as much as possible to ensure that celebrations involving persons in the technical area remain within proper bounds.

**Injured Player.** It is well-established that no person from the technical area, including the trainer (or any other person who is present to provide medical assistance), is allowed to enter the field unless and until beckoned by the referee. Equally, however, the trainer must remain in the technical area until permission is given to enter the field.

- The trainer may, of course, move within the technical area to be closer to the injured player if and when permission is given to enter the field.

- The failure of the trainer to respect this restriction may be grounds for dismissal from the field by the referee.
- While waiting to be beckoned onto the field, while entering the field, and while providing medical assistance, the trainer may not direct comments to any official other than confirming (if necessary) that permission has been given.
- In the case of a player who has received permission from the referee to exit the field during play for the purpose of receiving medical assistance off the field, the trainer must wait for permission to leave the technical area and may go to the player's location off the field provided that at no time may the trainer enter the field and, upon arriving at the player's location, both the player and the trainer must move far enough back from the touch or goal line to not interfere with play or with the view of the assistant referee.
  - However, in this case only (i.e., the trainer is providing assistance to a player off the field), permission may also be granted by the fourth official or by the near assistant referee.
  - The trainer must not delay returning to the technical area as soon as medical assistance has been provided.
  - The fourth official or the assistant referee should as quickly as is practical notify the referee if a trainer or similar person leaves the technical area without receiving the necessary permission.