



“It really isn’t helpful”

COACHING LEADERSHIP – COMPLAINING ABOUT THE REFS

There are a number of things about coaching hockey over decades that I have found to be annoying like complaining and aggressive parents, selfish players, and players that play dirty to name a few.

But the one I think gets me the most are coaches who constantly complain about the refereeing to the coaches, to the players to the organization and to the refs themselves during and after games. Many of the things I have heard said could not be repeated here.

These coaches truly believe that what they are doing is helping the team either in the game being played or for the future, when in truth it is the opposite. And worse they are gaining a reputation of getting on the refs which of course is passed on to the other refs who come to future games with the unspoken idea in his/her head that the coach is a referee complainer.

What a role model for the players and frankly how dumb!

What is a referee complainer:

- When a questionable penalty is called against his team he complains quietly to the refs
- When a close off sides occurs against his team in his opinion not shared by the linesman, he complains quietly to the head refs
- When a close icing occurs against his team in his opinion not shared by the linesman, he complains quietly to the head refs
- When a goal is called back against his team when the net came off at some point and in his opinion the puck was already in the net is not shared by the refs, he complains loudly to the refs
- He shows bad body language to the refs at times shaking his head, waving his hands etc
- When another penalty is called against his team and he starts screaming to the ref he doesn’t know what he’s doing, or he’s losing control, and is one of the worst refs he’s ever seen
- This continues to deteriorate throughout the game

The negative results of all this almost every time are:

1. The players start complaining to the refs, their game focus diminishes along with their game performance
2. We get more penalties called against us because that’s just human nature when you embarrass a ref in public
3. We get a bench penalty



4. The players get mad and take more penalties
5. Our reputation as a team with the refs deteriorates

The coach gets madder, the players get madder and the refs get madder.

And to make it worse, the coaches and players after the game talk about how all this must stop, and then the next game when we start losing the ritual starts all over again. Again the amazing thing is some coaches actually believe they will change the ref's adverse behavior to their team if they hassle him enough and keep trying to prove his call was wrong and they were right. Amazing!

Accept that the refs are like me and you who make mistakes. How do we like getting yelled at in any setting in life when we make mistakes?

MAN UP