



Rule 6.9

Designated Bench Area: Failure to comply with the following will be considered misconduct and possible suspension.

- a. The official party must remain within the designated bench area during play.
- b. Coaches are permitted to move on the sideline only in front of their respective benches and from the centerline (50 yard line) to the 23 meter line (25 yards) on their bench side or in the bleachers directly behind their designated bench area.
- c. Coaches and players in the bench area must remain behind a clearly marked restraining line (a minimum of five yards from the sideline; if 5 yards is not available, as close to 5 yards as possible).
- d. Spectators are not permitted behind the goal area and must be at least 10 yards behind the end line, and a minimum of five yards from the sideline.

The Keys to this rule are the necessity for “**a clearly marked restraining line**” and “**Failure to comply is considered misconduct**” Unfortunately, the only ones who can monitor the issue are the umpires.

It is being suggested that umpires inform both coaches prior to the match that the 5 yard area off the sideline is needed for movement and sight. If a coach cannot respect that, the umpire must deal with it. The worst thing is, if an umpire cannot see or runs into a coach / bench personnel while trying to umpire the game.

This is all part of the coaches responsibility of their bench. It should be respected by the entire coaching community. In order to get the best game from an umpire...give them the room necessary to be in position without interference. The rule is quite clear and everyone should respect it.

Due to the lack of a game administrator or technical table, umpires must react to the situation accordingly. This is also part of our teaching of lowering tolerance. Until, as a group, this issue is strongly dealt with, it will continue. It may seem petty at times, but when there is interference by a coach / bench personnel it can have a big impact on the game.

No one wants to issue a RED CARD to a coach for being in the 5 yd. area. It should not come to that but the decision to disregard the rule is a coaching issue which umpires must react to it if necessary.