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| **Behavior toward our referees**  There have been a number of incidents recently involving parents and coaches that have had a negative impact on our local referees. Without our referees we would not have competitive soccer. As we know from watching the professional game, refereeing is not easy. We need to remember that we are coaching and encouraging our youth to play soccer – the referees are doing their best to enable this. As coaches we need to support and develop our local referees. Any harassment training will tell you that “it does not matter what was intended but how it was perceived”. We may not think that our behavior to a referee was inappropriate but how did this impact the referee? We have to be conscious of gender, physical size, language, voice volume and proximity or personal space in our interactions with referees. Our behavior needs to be appropriate not just at home games but at away games as well. Let’s go out of our way to make sure the referees feel respected, valued and supported at every game. |
| **Get to know your WYSA coaches**  This week, we will get to know some more about Maura Michener, WYSA U19 Girls coach.   1. What are the 3 most important qualities that you coach into your teams?  *Things I like to look for in athletes is not only skill but also their ability to accept and learn from defeat, and how much time and effort they are willing to put into the sport.* 2. Where are the worst fields your team has played and why? *Mauston when I played YMCA, there were a bunch of holes everywhere and it was raining so the ball would stop dead when it would hit the puddles.* 3. Your one piece of advice to players taking a PK? *Take a deep breath, relax, and stay consistent.* 4. Describe a memorable game or event that you participated in as a player or coach? *This past year I was playing at SMU; my team hadn't scored for seven games. I was playing right wing and I saw the left wing running down the side and I saw that she was getting ready to cross it and it had been going over the forwards head the whole game so I quickly got to the back side of the box and got the ball and somehow eventually got the ball in.* 5. Your favorite post game food place to eat after an away game? *I can't really eat after games because I get sick, so usually just a granola bar or some gatorade.* 6. Grass or turf? *Grass, as long as it is cut short, otherwise turf* 7. What is your favorite Tournament? *Schwan's USA Cup soccer tournament in Blaine, MN* 8. Your pet hate as a coach*? When the athletes do not try during drills* 9. What is your favorite team?  *St Mary’s University Women* 10. Your #1 piece of soccer advice to any player? *Enjoy every second you have on the field because you never know if it will be your last. (I learned a lot of this from my high school soccer coach)* |
| **Coaching clichés or are they?**  The World Cup Qualifiers over this weekend provided reminders of some well know soccer clichés:  *“You don’t shoot; you don’t score”* – ask Michael Bradley after his 40 yard wonder goal against Mexico.  *“The game is not over until the final whistle blows”* – Scotland v England was 0 – 1 after 87 minutes and ended up a 2 – 2 tie with an England equalizer in the 94th minute  Let’s teach and encourage our players to shoot and to never give up! |