



## **Sideline Control Point of View:**

**How a Coach's Presence and Maintaining the Sideline are Key to the Flow of the Game, both on the Field and in the Stands**

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# Agenda

What does sideline control mean?

Why is it important?

Impact to the sport

NFHS rules regarding sideline interactions

Concept: Span and control

Control what you can control



# Sideline control

*The act or influence of maintaining discipline on the sideline*

# Why is this important?

Local · Perspective

**Sports parents are horrible and referees are finally doing something about it – quitting**

## **A Sad History of Abusive Coaches**

BY LYNN ZINSER APRIL 3, 2013 3:25 PM

## **The Consequences of Verbally Abusive Athletic Coaches**

**Football referees: death threats, physical violence and verbal abuse are all part of the job**

Published: May 14, 2019 5:58am EDT

## **Poor Sportsmanship, Pandemic Contributing to Shortage of Officials**

By Dr. Karissa Niehoff on September 01, 2021

**Stop Youth Sports Coaches Who Bully By Recognizing Techniques They Use To Avoid Blame**

## **Kids' football: when dads go bad**

Mouthing off and aggressive behaviour are marring Sunday football leagues. But it's not the players kicking off - it's their parents. Why are men who should know better seeing red?

**SPORTS COACHES CAN BE EMOTIONALLY ABUSIVE – HERE'S HOW TO RECOGNISE IT**

February 28, 2019

**Abusive kids' coach banned from sidelines**

**Over the years, line between tough and abusive coach has changed**

# Impact to the sport

*“...the more a child is bullied, or observes bullying, in a particular environment, the more they dislike being in that environment. So, any bullying done by coaches will virtually guarantee a victim’s hasty exit from the sport.”<sup>1</sup>*

## The Decline Of Football Is Real And It’s Accelerating

*“According to the Oregon Athletic Officials Association, the number of registered officials for high school sports has been declining steadily for the past decade. The number of registered football officials has declined from 826 during the 2010-11 academic year to just 483 in 2020-21. And the decrease plunged during the pandemic – 175 officials from the 2019-20 academic year chose not return this year. The dip was the largest in the past six academic years.”<sup>2</sup>*

1.  
2.

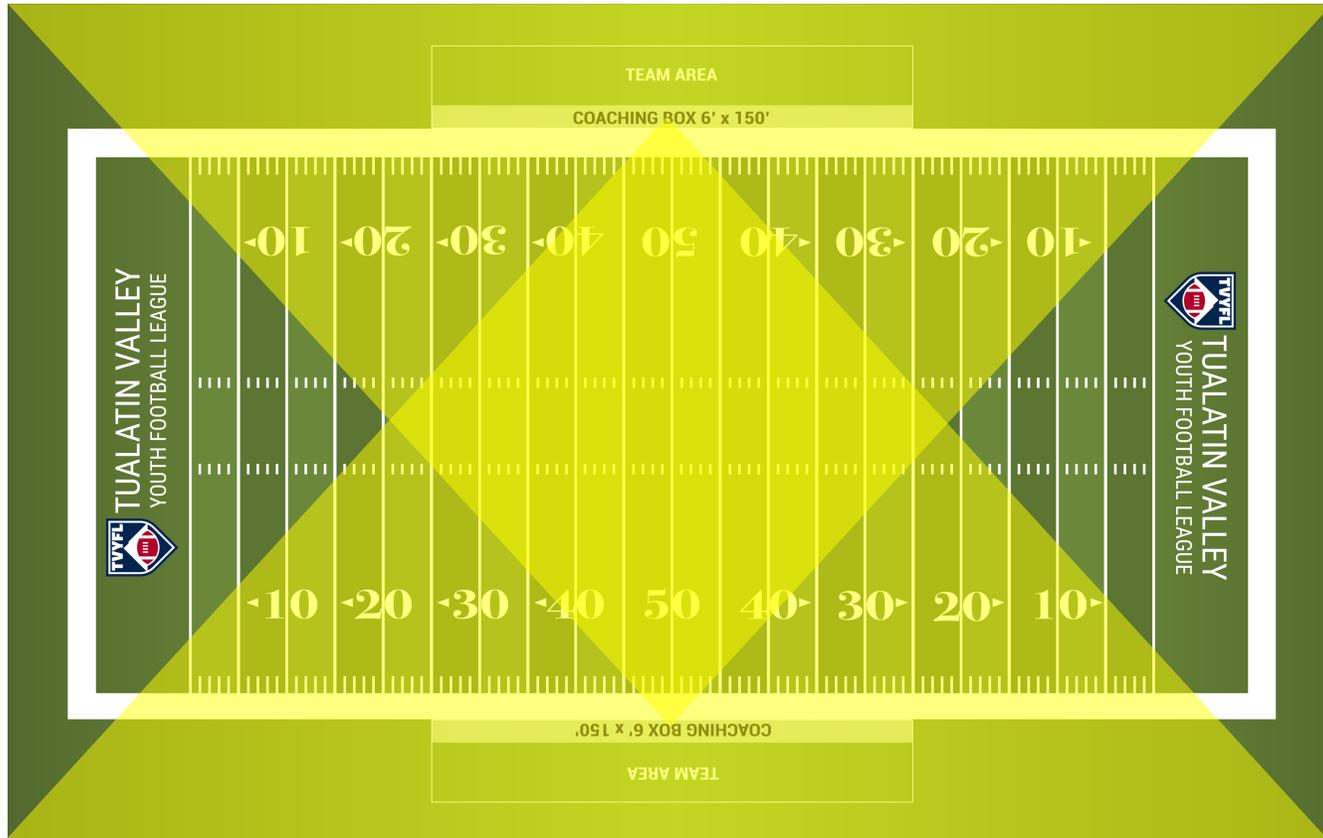
<https://psychcentral.com/lib/the-consequences-of-verbally-abusive-athletic-coaches#5>

<https://www.oregonlive.com/highschoolsports/2021/09/shortage-of-high-school-sports-officials-expected-to-worsen-as-oregons-vaccination-mandate-approaches.html>

# NFHS rules regarding sideline interactions

Rule	Description	1st	2nd	Each Subsequent	Flagrant	DQ
<b>1-2-3g</b>	What's a team box/restricted area					
<b>9-8-1k</b>	Being outside team box	Warning	5 Yard	15 Yard	DQ	Any 2
<b>9-8-3</b>	Who can be outside the team box? When?	Warning	5 Yard	15 Yard	DQ	Any 2
<b>9-4-8</b>	Contact official in the restricted area	15 Yard	15 Yard & HC DQ	15 Yard	15 Yard & HC DQ	HC 2nd
<b>1-4-4</b>	Who can talk to officials?					
<b>3-5-2a</b>	Who can call time-out?					
<b>9-8-1a-d</b>	You can't say much besides coaching players	15 Yard		15 Yard	DQ	Any 2

# Concept: span of control



- “The concept of “span of control,” also known as management ratio, refers to the number of subordinates controlled directly by a superior.”<sup>1</sup>
- For our discussion, it reflects the head coach and coaching staff’s influence over the sideline, the field of play and the stands.
- All actions on the sideline are visible across all 3 spans listed above.
- As you go, so does the spans
  - Modeling good behavior and sportsmanship
  - Tough love or verbal abuse?
- Undue pressure leads to a negative experience

1. <https://www.inc.com/encyclopedia/span-of-control.html#:~:text=The%20concept%20of%20a%22span%20of%20controlled%20directly%20by%20a%20superior>

# Control what you can control

Discuss the importance of fan behavior with your parents early and often

- After first practice
- Ahead of the first game
- This is a good time to educate your parents: *“Respect me in my role as coach and not coaching from the stands”*

Provide clear expectations to all sideline personnel (inclusive of chain gang)

Only the head coach should interact with the officiating staff

- Poor behavior towards the official will not change a call

Limit sideline personnel to those who must be there; parents should not be on the sideline to watch the game

**Your behavior will produce either a disciplined or escalating effect**

# What's in it for me?

- Coaches are key to player retention and growing the sport
- We need officials; they are key to our sport
  - In many instances the officials are high school students; minors
- Our players are watching everything you do – these are *teachable* moments

<p>01</p>  <p><b>HAVE FUN</b></p> <p>Participants play sports to have fun; this is key in everything we do</p>	<p>02</p>  <p><b>PLAY SAFE</b></p> <p>Ensure a safer playing environment with a positive experience.</p>	<p>03</p>  <p><b>INCREASE PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p>Foster and increase participation in youth football</p>
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**Thank you**