1. Talking point: “When in doubt, don’t let it out!”

Things to say to coaches:

* 1. “Here’s what I heard you say.” (Recount it so you have it right or understand it.)
  2. “I see your point.”
  3. “I hear you!”
  4. “That may well be…”
  5. “We’ll have to talk at halftime coach.”
  6. “I’ll relay that to my partners.”
  7. “I see what you mean.”

Things NOT to say to coaches:

1. “Calm down.”
2. “Because that’s the rule!”
3. “I know how you feel!”
4. “I‘m not going to say this again.”
5. “I don’t want to hear another word.”
6. “If you say one more thing you’re going to get a card!”
7. Practice -Using the language of the rules and current interpretations when explaining rulings
8. Create scenarios that an official may have with a coach.
9. Practice the officials’ response(s) using the language of the rules
10. Discuss what would be a good response and what would not.

EXAMPLES

1. “Body ball! Empty! Shooting space!” or general commentary during flow of play and fouls that should be called throughout the game.

* Remember that judgment is the obligation of the official, and that coaches and fans are inherently biased toward their teams
* Say, “There was no intention with the ball-to-body contact, Coach,” or “The defender was within a stick’s length of the attacker,” or similar explanation using the language of the rules.
  + “Do you have a question about a particular ruling/body balls, Coach?” Sometimes coaches aren’t being critical but are hoping for a call and verbalize that.
  + If there isn’t time to answer a question/address a comment, quickly say “Ask me about that during a timeout or at the half, Coach.”
  + If it continues, give a hand up, a “mom look,” or say “Enough!” And, be willing to use a card if the talk continues after your physical and verbal warnings.

1. “What was that call, ref?!”

* Coaches are allowed to ask questions, regardless of tone. Sometimes they may be emotional, but they still need to know what was called. Give them the benefit of the doubt.
* Answer the question quickly within the language of the rules (i.e., “Checking across the body from behind, Coach.”)
* If it is a call by your partner and you don’t know what it is, tell the coach you will check and get back to them, you were looking off-ball, screened, etc. at the time. Then check and get back to the coach (when there’s time).

1. “That was a terrible call!” “Whatever!” Or similar statements that are not questions

* During flow of play, ignore, give a hand, a “look,” or say “Enough!” Be willing to use a card if the talk continues after your physical and verbal warnings.
* Ongoing commentary that has been addressed should then be carded.
* “G rated” language is appropriate on the lacrosse field. “PG rated” language should be warned. “R rated” should be carded (without warning).

1. “That is the 5th straight call on my team!” “Nice hometown call!” “You might as well be wearing a blue shirt!” “Who’s paying you today?” or other comments that question integrity.

* Say, “Enough,” or “That’s enough, Coach,” and give a hand, then card the coach!