

Rule 309 – Sideline Etiquette

The Sideline/touchline (technical area) for both teams must be located on the same sideline/touchline between the halfway line and the 18 yd line (extended).

Spectators must be on the opposite sideline/touchline (2 yards behind). Spectators, Players, and Team Staff are prohibited between the 18 yd line (extended) down to the end line (or corner flag). No one is allowed on or near the end line/goal line from corner to corner. There are a few exceptions:

- If the Rules of the facility (usually a Stadium) deem that the teams must be on opposite sides of the field, then the spectators must be located in the bleachers, and/or behind the fence surrounding the field.
- For 7v7 fields, teams must be on the same sideline/touchline and Spectators are located on the opposite sideline/touchline. Space for Spectators between the halfway line and the Penalty box line may be inadequate for all the Spectators. In this case, the “Goalie box” (usually 5yd line extended for 7v7 matches) must be used as the limit for Spectators on the sideline/touchline. Spectators, Club Staff and Players are not allowed on or near the goal line/end line.

The Head Coach for each team is responsible for the behavior of their Spectators’ sideline. Spectators are expected to behave appropriately and respectfully before, during and after the match. Unruly or irresponsible behavior identified by the referee crew will (at minimum) lead to expulsion of the Team’s Head coach. The Head Coach must leave immediately, or the match will be abandoned. This will result in the offending team forfeiting the match and/or a monetary fine. If the league receives reports of unsportsmanlike/unruly conduct from any spectator(s), the league reserves the right to fine the offending Club(s), remove the team(s) from the league or take any other action, if deemed necessary.

Rule 310 – Mercy Rule

- If the score differential reaches 5 goals, then the coach of the team with fewer goals may add one player to the field. If the goal differential returns to 4 goals, then the additional player must be removed from the field. Adding and removing the player must be done according to the substitution rules.
- If a team has only 7 **players** present at the match for (9U/10U), 9 **players** for (11U/12U) and 11 **players** for 11v11 and the score differential reaches 5 goals then the team leading would remove one player from the field.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the coaches to adhere to this WPL Policy. The referees may remind the coach, but it is not their responsibility to bring this to the coaches attention or force the coaches to take necessary steps.

The use of Drones for any reason while WPL members are attending sanctioned WPL events is forbidden. The use of Drones may also fall under specific guidelines/laws that are laid out by local jurisdictions (School Districts, Park Departments, etc.)³