



## **COOLING OFF PERIOD PROTOCOL**

For all matches under the auspices of **HALLMARK SECURITY FOOTBALL LEAGUE** the protocol is that Club managers, coaches, etc. may not approach the match officials at half time nor until at least 20 minutes after the game has finished (this includes not going onto the field of play at the end of the match nor waiting for the match officials in the tunnel area)

In principle, post-match 'cooling off' periods are:

- Applicable after the end of every game
- Applicable to all occupants of the Technical Area and all players
- Designed to reduce confrontation by creating a period of reflection so that any discussion can take place in a calm atmosphere so that it is as fruitful as possible for all parties leading to greater understanding.
- Likely to result in considerably fewer cases of misconduct

### **Benefits of having such a post-match 'cooling off' protocol**

- Prevents obvious public dispute on the field of play that detracts from the image of the game
- Reduces the likelihood of confrontation / misconduct and all that the aftermath entails
- Reduces the adrenaline levels in everyone concerned
- Allows a calm, rational conversation to take place that should benefit both parties
- Allows all parties to have a period of reflection and a reduction in the stresses the game produces
- Allows the match officials time to complete the official paperwork
- Gives the opportunity for an Assessor to be present so that he can watch, listen and offer advice or an opinion, if appropriate to do so
- Reduces pressure on referees

There would then be a consistency across all Steps where "Professional Game" referees operate, thereby allowing a smooth transition as they or the clubs migrate upwards through the game.

Therefore please bring this to the attention of your team management.

This notice should be displayed in the home, away and match officials dressing rooms.

**By order of the Management Committee**