



Jim Arts, Oconomowoc, Wis., uses different approaches when speaking with captains during a dead ball. It is a good idea to get closer to eye level with the player; however it is preferred to lean or step down to the first rung on the ladder to talk to the captain.

MIGHT I HAVE A WORD?

Open Lines of Communication With Captains Key to Control

By Bill Thornburgh

During a match, interactions between the officials and the captains are critical. In terms of effective communication and the perception of others (e.g. coaches, second referee, commentators, fans), there are three especially important aspects: position on the stand, body posture and the actual words spoken.

There are times when an upright and authoritative stance is needed to let others know you are in control. In a situation where you want to provide

a gentle reminder to captains, or use preventive officiating, it could be more appropriate to bend or take a step down on the stand to be closer to level eye contact.

Throughout a match, situations arise where “captain speak” can be initiated by the first referee or by a team captain. We cannot account for every possible situation where an interaction may occur, so in this article we will focus on specific occurrences where referees are likely to be on center stage with the captain.

Referee-initiated interactions

Delay situations:

- The horn ends a timeout, but the team does not report back to the court. After the second referee makes an attempt to get the team out of its huddle, the players return slowly.

Referee action – Whistle the captain to the stand.

Referee body posture – First time, lean down slightly. If the team continues to ignore the horn and second referee, stay upright.

Referee suggested communication – “Can you please