

Cooling-Off Period

To promote respectful post-match communication and reduce the potential for conflict, the following protocol is in place:

- **Nobody** is permitted to approach the match officials on the pitch at half time or full time
- A **minimum 20-minute cooling-off period** must be observed after the final whistle before any club manager, coach, official, or player approaches the match officials
- During this time, **no one should** engage with match officials
 - The protocol is designed to:
 - Reduce confrontation
 - Allow time for reflection
 - Encourage calm, constructive feedback
- Clubs are encouraged to **designate a responsible person** to speak with match officials after the cooling-off period
- This initiative aims to **improve the matchday experience** and reduce pressure on officials

*This protocol is issued by order of the
NCEL Management Committee*