

Major League Soccer
League Office
110 E. 42nd St
Suite 1000
New York, NY 10017-5611
Telephone 212 450-1200
Telefax 212 450-1300

Memorandum



TO: MLS Coaches
MLS Team Administrators

CC: MLS General Managers
MLS Disciplinary Committee

FROM: Joseph A. Machnik

DATE: May 27, 2005

SUBJECT: Bench Decorum (Language)

Recent television broadcasts of MLS games have been enhanced by the placement of microphones near the bench areas. There is concern at the team and league office levels with the amount of foul, vulgar and often abusive language being transmitted over the air to our viewers at home.

All coaches and bench personnel are advised to refrain from such language for the good of the game and MLS' viewing audience.

Failure to do avoid instances of repeated disregard for this appeal may subject bench personnel to MLS Disciplinary Committee action through fine and/or suspension in addition to the embarrassment such recorded behavior may bring upon the individual. In addition, please be aware that game officials are within their right under the Laws of the Game to dismiss bench personnel for foul and abusive language.