

Strategies for Officials to Better Include Autistic Athletes



Extra Time

Allow extra time for processing instructions and preparing for play.



Support with Learning Rules

Repeated exposure to rules may be needed before they are understood.



Support with Inconsistency

Rules that aren't followed exactly may lead to confusion or frustration.

While it is primarily the coach's responsibility to prepare Autistic athletes for competitive play, having refs and officials also understand the unique needs of Autistic athletes can create the best outcomes for everyone involved!

Once officials understand the needs of individual athletes, they can also play a role in educating others and will be more prepared when officiating similar athletes in the future.

