

Sometimes it can make it easier to understand something if you compare it to something you know about. In some ways, the court system is a little like a soccer game.

Courtroom Soccer



The Stadium:

The courtroom is the stadium where the court case takes place.

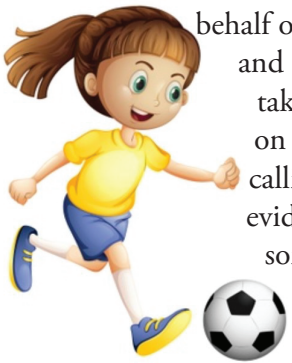


The Players:

The two different sides in a court case are like the players in a soccer game. They can be called all kinds of different names, like litigant, defendant, prosecutor, plaintiff, and others. The different sides in a court case are like soccer teams

because they try to win on behalf of their team, fans and players. They

take turns being on offense and defense by calling witnesses and giving evidence to the judge and, sometimes, the jury.



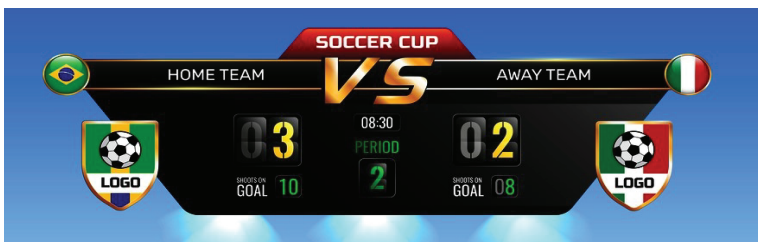
The Coaches:

The coaches are like the lawyers who help the players play the game, because they usually know how the game works better than the players do. They decide what plays to call, and the overall game strategy. Lawyers do the same thing by making a plan to present their client's case, and then calling witnesses and giving evidence to try to perform their best.



The Scorekeepers:

The scorekeepers watch the game and record every time each side scores a point. While there is no point system in a court, the judge (or jury, depending on the kind of trial) reviews the evidence presented and declares a winner.



The Referee:

The judge is like a referee. Part of the judge's job is to keep time and move everything along on schedule. He or she also calls fouls if one of the teams does something that is against the rules.



The Sportscasters:

Sportscasters are like court reporters. They are responsible for making sure everything that happens in the courtroom gets written down so people can go back and see what happened if they forget, or if they weren't there.



The Commissioner of the League:

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is like the Commissioner. He or she has to make sure that all the games and stadiums and referees and everything works smoothly. He or she also decides on disputes that are too hard for the other courts or ones where one side feels like the decision made by the court is wrong. The Chief has six other justices who help him or her make decisions and think through their problems. The Court has law clerks to research questions presented by the lawyers.



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