

## WTF? Rabid fans and mail-in rebates

Contributed by NEXTnc staff reports  
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This week, we take on soccer dads without a clue and whether or not it's really worth the hassle to mail in a mail-in rebate.

### Fighting fans

Something is seriously wacked in society when a fight can break out over a game of soccer played by 9-year-olds.

On a recent weekend, I was watching a friend's son play soccer in the city league games. He is 9. Let me say it one more time. 9.

So, at such a basic skill level, I was mystified when two parents on the sidelines got into an argument over a bad call by an inexperienced ref. These two guys stood on the sidelines, making a scene and getting in each other's faces about who was right and who wasn't.

Come on, people! Check your egos for two 25-minute halves and let the 9-year-olds play their game. The rest of us don't really care if you're right or not, so save YOUR OWN 9-year-old behavior for your own backyard.

### Rebate debate

I understand that once companies have your money, they really don't like giving it back. And that must be the philosophy behind rebates. Companies make getting a rebate so much trouble that most people won't even bother with it in the first place.

I recently bought a new cell phone, and it looked like a good deal, after the rebate. Little did I know that the next four days of my life would be spent filling out rebate forms, tracking down proofs of purchase, cutting sides off of cardboard boxes, photocopying receipts and credit-card purchase verifications, and mailing it all off to some anonymous giant rebate center.

The only thing worse than putting all the pieces together is the 6-8 week wait to get my \$20 back. We know you get bent out of shape at trivial crap, too. Tell us what annoys you: [dhenderson@nextnc.com](mailto:dhenderson@nextnc.com).