

Prompt: On Monday, October. 12, 2015, USC football coach Steve Spurrier announced his resignation effective immediately despite the fact that only half of the season has been played. All indications are that he was not forced to resign by USC administration. Identify the ethical considerations in this scenario and formulate your opinion as to the actions were ethical or not. Please do not let your personal feelings influence your evaluation of the situation.

Response:

There were many aspects that came into play with Spurrier's decision to resign. Most of these aspects had to do with ethical and moral dilemmas. The first question Spurrier had to ask himself was what did he value. Spurrier made his love for our Gamecocks very clear however his abundant values overpowered this love. A value is something we, as individuals, judge to be worthwhile, desirable, important, and so on. What Spurrier claimed to value was giving his team his best and making sure they were on the up, getting those "W's". He said from the beginning he has always followed his value of if his team starts losing and looks to be on a downward slope he had no choice but to get out.

Several questions come into play, one being, was his sudden resignation ethical based on his timing and reasoning. As a Gamecock fan, I think his timing is absolutely horrible and hurtful. I feel like he is giving up on us. But as I watch his "silly" press conference and read multiple articles on the matter, I begin to understand the ethical and moral reasoning behind his sudden actions.

If I were a coach and my players started to turn to social media spewing how I am not doing my job and the reason we are losing is because of me, I too would take a step back and think about my utility values. Is my continuing of coaching at all helpful or purposeful of something that is good. Am I still doing the right, moral thing. Coach Spurrier's answer was no. He believed with his morals and values that he was no longer good or the right fit for our beloved Gamecocks.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion on the matter of Steve Spurrier's sudden resignation. I can say that I am very disappointed that he did not have it in him to finish out coaching my final season as a Gamecock student. However, in terms of an ethical dilemma Coach Spurrier had no choice but to do what was best for him, the team, and Gamecock nation. He had to think of the significant values and potential consequences at hand. He then had to come up with real alternatives to solve his ethical dilemma. Based on his own morals and values I think it is safe to say our former Head Ball Coach made the right ethical decision.