



THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER!!! Only positive coaching & positive comments will be allowed.

Your role, as parents, has a tremendous impact on your child's experiences as he or she participates in sports.

- **LET THE COACHES COACH & LET THE REFS REF:**
Leave coaching to the coaches & the refereeing to the referees. You have entrusted your player to the coach, & the coach needs to be free to do his/her job. Too many coaches confuse a player & performance usually declines. **If you are having trouble with a coach or referee call the coach or the referee administrator for assistant.**
- **SUPPORT THE PROGRAM:**
Get involved & help with fundraisers, coaching, refereeing, carpooling, marking fields, helping keep fields clean, anything **YOU** can do to support your program.
- **BE YOUR CHILD'S BEST FAN:**
Support your child unconditionally. Give positive encouragement at all times. Do not withdraw your love when your child performs poorly. Your child should never have to earn your love.
- **SUPPORT THE ENTIRE TEAM:**
Foster teamwork. Your child's teammates are not the enemy. When teammates are playing better than your child, your child has a wonderful opportunity to learn. Root for all the players.
- **AVOID BRIBES:**
Bribes distract your child from concentrating properly on practice and game situations.
- **ENCOURAGE DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE COACH:**
If your child is having difficulties in practice or games, must miss a practice or game, etc., encourage him or her to speak directly to the coach. This "responsibility taking" allows your child to claim ownership, & develops communication skills & self-confidence.
- **DISPLAY APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:**
Be an appropriate role model. Children mimic the behavior they see in parents, coaches, & other players. By keeping these behaviors positive & encouraging, children learn behaviors that are acceptable both on & off the field. Arguments & negative behaviors also distract your child from focusing on the parts of the game that he or she can control, & your child will not play up to his ability. **All of the regions in our area have designated spectator areas and coach/player areas. In general, spectators will sit on one side of the field and coaches/players will sit on the opposite side of the field.**
- **KEEP SOCCER IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE:**
Soccer should not be larger than life for you. Remember your relationship with your child will continue long after soccer days are over. Keep your goals & needs separate from your child's experience.
- **FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES:**
If your child has come off the field when his team has lost, but he has played his best, help him see this as a "win". Remind him to focus on doing his best, thinking about what went well & why, & accepting the outcome. Teach your child how to recognize achievement in himself/herself & others.
- **AYSO KID ZONE:**
This season AYSO regions are implementing a new program nation wide called AYSO KID ZONE. More information will be coming to you during the season.

A FINAL WORD: ENJOY!

Players & parents should have fun & enjoy the game, regardless of the final score. The coach will challenge your child to reach beyond their "comfort level" to improve skills & self-confidence, while keeping a spirit of fun.

