

SOCGER SIDELINE ETHICS HANDOUT

The Fun is Playing:

- Encourage skill development and 100% performance in all kids.
- Winning is not their motivation.
- They want to be having fun. Kids see soccer as fun, learning new skills, emulating heroes.

Know the Game and the Laws:

- Soccer looks simple but it is complex to play, coach, and officiate.
- You will enjoy the game more by understanding soccer skills and tactics, the flow of play, and how the game is played.
- Soccer is a free flowing with ever-changing situations and constant problem solving by players.

Support the Team, Not Just Your Youngster:

- Give encouragement to your entire team.
- Don't yell constantly at a youngster
- Avoid giving directions as they are playing

Let the Players Play:

- Youngsters participate for their enjoyment, not ours.
- To children, playing is more important than winning, while winning is more important to parents and coaches.

Let the Coaches Coach:

- The coach provides guidance, skill instruction, and supervised fun for the kids.
- Respect the coaches and their decisions.
- The concern is the whole team, not just your player.

Let the Referee Judge the Game

- Soccer referee controls the game the moment they enter the field.
- Most are young and are still learning to referee, just as the players are learning to play.
- They respect fair play, sportsmanship, skill, and the spirit of the game.
- Referee calls are final.

What They See and Hear:

- Hear: Yelling at the referees, other players or at the coach.
- See: People's feelings being hurt.

What They Think:

- It's okay to yell hurtful things at people.

How They Feel:

If the child is present when a negative event happens, there is a sense of awkwardness and it puts the child in a difficult position. What parents and coaches say and do greatly affects every child on the team. Realize that if all that is said is negative and complaints, then it is unlikely that they will understand that the rest of the time the referee is making good decisions.

What Parents and Coaches Say on the Sideline has Great Influence Over the Team.

If the parents and coach are positive, the team will also be positive. The best thing you can do is to support the team, and that means every aspect of the team, including the referees. Children tend to focus on the complaints because that is what is most obvious to them. Encouraging words do wonders! "Good job" is always nice to hear!

Remember, every adult is a role model. If the children see you do it, they will think it is an acceptable behavior and will repeat the behavior.

BE POSITIVE, AND HAVE FUN!