



# Sideline Guide: Pointers for Parents

Sometimes it can be hard to watch your son or daughter from the sidelines without getting too excited. To keep the game fun for all children, strive to do the following:

## **Lead by Example**

Your role as a parent doesn't stop at the sidelines. You are always the role model for good sportsmanship and self discipline. So encourage teamwork and stress that each player is an important part of the team.

## **Get Involved**

Show interest in your child's team and personal development. Encourage your child to show you what was learned at practice each week. Not only is this a good way to learn more about the game, but it's an excellent way to show your child you care.

## **Be Positive**

Always be aware of what attitude you convey from the sidelines. Applaud all good plays by your child's team and the opposing team. This teaches your child to recognize honest effort. Good sportsmanship is very important and should not be sacrificed to earn a point or win a game.

## **Have Fun**

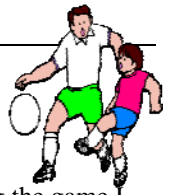
Sometimes it's hard to remember that in youth sports, the most important thing is for children to enjoy themselves. Don't let your expectations for your child ruin the pure fun of playing the game. Help your child set goals for the season, then enjoy watching him or her reach them.

## **Encourage Confidence**

Don't let the win/lose nature of competitive sports undermine your child's self confidence. Help your child overcome any fear of failure by encouraging him or her to be proud of personal and team achievements. Point out good things your child accomplishes, such as passing the ball well or meeting a personal goal.

## **Don't be a "Sideline Coach" or "Ref"**

Coaches and referees in organized sports need your support to help them do their job. Please do not ref or coach a game from the sidelines. This undermines authority and confuses the team. If you are interested in becoming a coach or referee, please volunteer.



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## Code of Conduct

I understand that it is a privilege to stand along the sidelines and watch children play the game of soccer. While watching the game I will be a role model of sportsmanship for these kids. I agree to be positive with my comments regardless of the outcome of the game.

I agree to be tolerant of the officials' calls, whether I agree with them or not, and will encourage my child to do the same. I will do my best to support the referees, especially youth referees, and agree that I will not berate, threaten, curse or in any way physically or verbally abuse an official of any age. I understand that a referee is not obligated to delay the game to explain their calls to anyone. Should I have a complaint about the referee, I understand there is a system in place to report the complaint and I will follow those procedures (see "Coaches Handbook" at [www.yavapaisoccer.com](http://www.yavapaisoccer.com) ).

I understand that at no time during the course of the game (including injuries and fighting) will anyone – coaches, parents, substitute players or spectators – enter the field of play without the expressed permission of the center referee. I realize that all persons on the sideline must be at least one yard back from the touch line. I understand that the enjoyment of the kids playing the sport they love is much more important than the outcome of the game. I will encourage my child at each game to play hard, play fair, respect the referees and other officials and congratulate their opponent. I agree to try my best to make each and every soccer game, practice, scrimmage or tournament, a positive experience for my child and all those around me.

As a parent, coach, assistant coach, or other volunteer for my child's soccer team, I understand that I am a member of the Yavapai Soccer League, that I am responsible for complying with all of the rules and regulations of the League and that I can be held accountable for my actions, as provided in the Yavapai Soccer League Rules and Bylaws.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Father or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Mother or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date