



## SIX TIPS FOR YOUTH SOCCER PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Support from parents/guardians is critical to ensuring the success of the program. Call 803-924-8328 to let us know about positive or negative aspects of the program.

**Remember: if you have an issue with the coaching style or the officiating, be willing to volunteer as a coach or serve as an official in the future. Our goal is for the players to have fun and improve their skills over the course of the season while teaching sportsmanship and teamwork. We hope that along the way you are willing to support us in these efforts.**

**THANK YOU!**

### COMMUNICATION

Be sure you understand how the coach will communicate information to you. If your player will not be able to attend a practice or game, it is important to communicate that to the coach as soon as possible. If by chance things are not going as you expected or you have concerns, be sure to speak calmly to the coach directly (in-person or via phone) at an appropriate time (not during a practice or game). Game schedules will also be posted on the website.

### COMMITMENT

Ensure that your child makes it to scheduled practices and games. Players should arrive a minimum of 15 minutes prior to game start time. Do not expect your child to start if they are missing practices or will be late for a game. Communicate with the coach if your child cannot attend. Teamwork is difficult to promote if ALL players are not present. Remind your player that effort is important as well – they can't just show up; they also need to give 100% at practices and games.

### PREPARATION

Players should come to every practice and/or game prepared. For practices, this means they should be wearing practice attire and have their shin guards (older divisions). For games, this means they are in full uniform (socks, black shorts, and jersey) with their shin guards in or under their socks. Cleats are encouraged, but not required (no metal spikes).

Be sure your player has plenty to DRINK and do NOT forget the drinks and snacks when it's your turn.

### RESPECTFUL

If your emotions are running over, take a deep breath and wait before saying anything. Respect the coaches, fellow parents, all the players on the team and perhaps most importantly, the players, coaches, and parents on the other team. Do NOT yell at officials. It will NOT actually help your team. Walk away from annoying fans, model good sportsmanship for your player. If someone is blocking your view, kindly let them know or find somewhere else to sit or stand. Don't stand in front of people!

### SUPPORTIVE

While the coach may already have individuals helping coach, they still need your support in other ways. Players look forward to drinks and snacks after games; the coach may need assistance scheduling this important piece. You may be needed to help keep the substitute players ready to go into the game. If you are more comfortable just being a spectator, awesome; just be supportive of ALL players, coaches, and officials!

### ENCOURAGING

Be the person who reminds players and coaches that at the end of the day, it is JUST a GAME. We all want to win, but we must teach players to lose with dignity and win with humility. A positive attitude goes a long way. Countless times we have witnessed teams lose more because they allowed their negative attitudes to change the momentum of the game than because they weren't capable of winning. Encourage players to be team players and leaders.