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***To Develop A Passion For Soccer In Our Community***

**8 things to keep in mind while watching from the sidelines**

1. **Let the coaches’ coach**. If you are telling your son or daughter - or any other player for that matter - to do something different from what their coach is telling them, you have become a distraction and are creating confusion.

2.  **Let the kids play**. It is very unnerving for many young players to try and perform difficult tasks on the field on the spur of the moment when parents are yelling at them from the sidelines. Through training sessions, players are looking to show those skills on the field. Only way from them to learn from mistakes, is them having the chance to make them.

3. **Do not discuss the play of specific young players in front of other parents or your kids**. How many times do you hear comments such as, “I don’t know how that boy made this team.” or “she’s just not fast enough.”. Too many parents act as though their child is a ‘star’, and the problem is someone else’s kid. Negative comments and attitudes are hurtful and totally unnecessary and kill team harmony, which is often essential to a youth teams success.

4. Discourage such toxic behavior by listening patiently to any negative comments that might be made, then address issues in a positive way. **Speak to the positive qualities of a player, family or coach**.

5. **Do not complain about your son or daughter’s coaches to other parents or in front of your kids**. Once that starts, it is like a disease that spreads. Before you know it, parents are talking constantly in a negative way behind a coach’s back. (As an aside, if you have what you truly feel is a legitimate disagreement with your child’s coach, arrange an appointment to meet privately or send an email after you have gathered your thoughts, away from a soccer field.)

6. **Treat the referees with RESPECT**. Outbursts from parents on the sideline made toward the referees only signal to our children on the field that they can blame the refs for anything that goes wrong. **Blaming others is not a formula for success in sports.**

7. **Bring a chair and sit in it to enjoy the game.** Walking up and down all game long along the sidelines, following the play, is unnerving to players and totally unnecessary- particularly so if you are trying to yell out instructions to various players, including your own son or daughter. It is likely embarrassing to the player/players involved and simply counterproductive. Parent must stay on the parent sideline from the start of the game and until the players have been released from the coach at the end of the game. If you want to coach, obtain your coaching certification and then volunteer to coach.

8. **Save issues with the coach for the next day.** We all feel things and are apt to be tempted to say things in the ‘heat of the moment’. We don’t excuse athletes for doing inappropriate things in the ‘heat of the moment’ (there are penalties, disciplines, etc.) so we should apply similar standards to our own sideline behavior. Quickly check yourself and ask: *Will I be proud of what I am about to say or do when I reflect on it tomorrow?*