

General guidelines:

1. Any player/parental discussions with the coach will take place away from the immediate field (away from other players and parents).
2. Parents will commit to having their player at every scheduled practice, game, or other special event as directed by the coach.
3. Parents will be positive in all comments made to individual players or the team. **Encourage**, don't **discourage!**
4. Parents will not question a referee's decision at any time by word or gesture. Violators will be asked to leave the field.
5. The coach will handle any and all disputes or violations for team rules.
6. All parents will make themselves available to help out in any area that the team may need (ie. Field set-up; field marshal; concession stand; fundraising; etc)
7. Parents will support the coaching staff at all times
8. It is the responsibility of all parents to learn and understand the rules and the guidelines of the game. (LAWS OF THE GAME)
9. It is the responsibility of the parent to check with the coach at the beginning and/or end of each practice for any announcements or information pertinent to the team's activities.
10. "Coaching" from the side or comments directed to the game officials, **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. Failure to comply will impact upon your player's playing time.

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE "CHEERING"

1. Anything positive – try to direct your comments to the team, rather than individual players.
2. "Win the ball" – the team that is aggressive and "first to the ball" is usually the team that wins.
3. "Let's go boys. Or, "Let's go Troup – you can do it". A good, general all-purpose cheer for any parent who feels compelled to say something. It fits almost every occasion.
4. "Nice Pass" (or "shot", "throw-in", "service", "volley", "header", "tackle", etc.) A nice short yell for parent concerned, compared too much said, and thus ignorance of the game may be revealed.

EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE "CHEERING"

1. Any sentence or phrase that starts or ends with, or includes the word, "referee", "ref," or "linesman". For example, "are you blind, referee?" or "He's offside Mr. Linesman – get in the game".
2. "Kick it hard." "Boot it". Possession of the ball is a primary goal in soccer. We are not playing "kick ball". Players are being taught to pass the ball to teammates or to open space where teammates can win the ball. At times, because of defensive pressure or proximity of the ball to our goal, players may be instructed to clear the ball long. However, unbridled encouragement to "kick it hard", or "boot it" can often be confusing to players, and is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**.
3. "Go get the ball". Be careful with this one. Winning the loose or 50/50 ball is important, but we do not want the kids to play "bunch ball" or "amigo ball" where all of the players are running all over the field, chasing the ball in a panic. Maintaining space, trusting teammates to do their jobs, maintaining positions of support and shape, are important. Any negative comments directed at any coach or player, particularly your own child, is discouraged. This is a rule that separates the "select" parent from the average fan.
4. Any comment in which your child's name is repeated. It is perfectly fine to offer a nice compliment, "Nice tackle, Johnny". However, parents should not coach or direct positional play from the sidelines. Please cheer for our team and leave the coaching to the coach.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and support. Always remember that your behavior is an example for the boys. Always remain the first-class parents that I know you are, no matter what happens on the pitch.