

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS WHEN WATCHING THEIR CHILD PLAY**

- **BE POSITIVE WITH YOUR CHILD.** This means letting your child know they are accomplishing something, simply by being a part of a team – whether they are a starter or reserve.
- **NOT OFFER EXCUSES FOR YOUR CHILD.** Do not offer excuses for your child if she is not starting or starting. Instead, encourage your child to work hard and to do her best.
- **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO PLAY BECAUSE SHE/HE LOVES SOCCER.** Your child must have a passion and love for soccer in order to succeed at this competitive level of play. You should not be playing for a scholarship, they are rare and hard to earn.
- **INSIST THAT SCHOOLWORK COME FIRST.** Do not let your child say they are “too tired” to do homework. Instead, help them learn how to organize their time more efficiently.
- **HELP YOUR CHILD TO IMPROVE THEIR SELF-IMAGE.** Do not compare and contrast players with other family members. Treat each child as an individual.
- **CHEER POSITIVELY.** Your child’s teammates and opponents are young amateurs, not professionals. Treat them accordingly.
- **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO FOLLOW THE RULES.** This means setting a good example on and off the field.
- **NOT PUT DOWN COACHES, REFEREES, OR OTHER PLAYERS.** To berate the coach is to undermine an important adult role model. Remember, what you say your child will believe.
- **HAVE FUN.** Remember that your child is playing to have fun. We will try and challenge your child to reach past their “comfort level” and improve themselves as a player, and thus, a person.
- **NOT SHOUT INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR CHILD OR ATTEMPT TO COACH YOUR CHILD DURING GAMES.** This will cause confusion and may result in erroneous play on your child's part. The coaching staff has instructed your child on how to play. If you shout instructions, your child will probably try to please you and the coach at the same time. In trying to do two things at once, the child will fail at both. Furthermore, your instructions may directly conflict with the goals and objectives that the coaching staff has established for that particular game.
- **ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF EACH GAME.** Encourage the child to be graceful in victory and to turn defeat to a victory by working towards improvement.