



PARENT COMMITMENT

Soccer games/practices are as exciting for some parents as they are for their children. They want to support the team, cheer for the team, and encourage their child. Occasionally, this enthusiasm combines with a parent's lack of familiarity with the game, or lack of knowledge of the coach's instruction to the team, in a way that causes problems.

We do not wish to curb your enthusiasm for the game. We do wish to make sure that your enthusiasm is channeled in a way that will be helpful, complies with the rules of the game, and is consistent with the coach's instruction to the team. In this spirit, please keep these suggestions in mind as you attend Georgia Rush games.

1. **LET THE COACHES COACH:** This includes goal setting and psyching up your child for practice and post games and post-game critiques. Having more than one coach confuses children. When your child is unclear about anything a coach is telling them encourage them to talk with their coaches and let them take the responsibility for understanding what is being communicated.
2. **ENCOURAGE/DO NOT CRITICIZE:** One of our goals is to help your child play good soccer. No less important is our goal to make every effort to ensure that your child has fun. Your child understands the Club's high expectations on him or her and feels the peer pressure to do well. You can best help by confining your talk during the game to positive encouragement. Support your child unconditionally. Do not bribe or offer your child incentives for goals of field play. This distracts your child from concentrating properly in practices and games.
3. **DISPLAY APPROPRIATE PARENTAL BEHAVIOR AT PRACTICES AND GAMES:** Do not yell your child's name. Please say, go team or good goal. Cheering for your child is distracting to them and we want to encourage a team effort. Support all players on the team so each child has the opportunity to learn from their peers.
4. **KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE RULES OF THE GAME:** Sometimes, parental ill will toward the referee or a player is based upon a parent's lack of understanding of the rules of the game. Common problems are the understanding and application of the rules governing off sides and illegal contact. For more information, visit the GYSA website, under documents, rules and regulations, you will find the Laws of the Game.
5. **DO NOT YELL AT THE REFEREE:** It is our goal to build not only good soccer players, but also good sportsmen. Your positive or negative example at games will either greatly reinforce, or significantly undermine that effort. The coach or team captain has principal responsibility, although limited latitude in speaking with the

referee. Let them do their job when and if they feel it is necessary. With respect to tournament play, often one tournament team is given a special award for good sportsmanship. Your yelling and screaming could rob the players of an opportunity to earn such an award.

6. **KEEP REALITY IN FOCUS:** Remind your child to focus on the process, not the result. Some losses are wins based on team performance and some wins are losses for the same reason.

7. **SUPPORT THE PROGRAM:** Get involved by volunteering, for your team and club in any way you can. The more involved you are with your club and team the more your child will know you are supporting their interest.

8. **SUPPORT AND UNDERSTAND:** The Rush Way and the 11 Rush Core Values.

Any actions or behavior which is not in keeping with the Georgia Rush Parent Code of Conduct and/or club philosophy should be reported to the Technical Director or Academy/Select Director. The matter will then be directed to the Georgia Rush Disciplinary & Grievance Committee for further action.