

Game Time!

Every child should play at least half the game!

Player participation leads to fun which is the #1 reason kids play sports... to have fun!

- * **Every child should get multiple "High Fives"** from coaches during the game... kids love High Fives!!!!
- * **Respect the referees!** Don't yell at or criticize them. They are working hard just like the players. They will make "good" calls and they will make "bad" calls. It's part of the game.
- * **Parents support your child by cheering!** Don't coach them from the sidelines... let the coaches coach.
- * **ONE Voice** -- Parents should not be coaching or giving instruction from the sidelines. Coaches, try not to tell the player with the ball... let the player make the decision... it might be right, it might be wrong. They will learn how to play in both cases. Processing information is difficult for players when multiple people (parents, coaches and teammates) are trying, simultaneously, to give them directions. As parents and coaches we can make a player's "job" easier by reducing the amount of information we give them when they are in possession of the ball.
- * **Good Sportsmanship:** Players, coaches and referees should shake hands and congratulate each other after the game; no exceptions.
- * **HUGS!** Players should give parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings a BIG hug after game!!

Coach to Coach and Coach to Parent interactions

- * Coaches – in age groups U5 and U6: coaches are permitted and encouraged to be on the field.
- * Coaches -- U7 to U11/12: stay on your side of the field. Do not run up and down the full length of the field coaching the players. Respect the other coach's space
- * Coaches – if you have a question about a rule(s), approach the referee before the game so each party has the same expectation on how it will be interpreted/enforced.
- * Coaches – Please do not talk, criticize, share any negative comments, thoughts, reactions about referees, opposing team or spectators. Live by the old adage... "If you don't have something nice to say... don't say it at all." Criticizing another team's players, parents or coaches only leads to confrontation/problems. More importantly it doesn't set a good example for the children. They are always listening and watching our adult behavior.

V. Attitudes are choice.

As the games begin this weekend, I want to remind everyone about sideline expectations during all games. We want to represent ourselves and our community in a way that would make the kids proud of us each time they take the field.

My primary expectation for each coach, parent, and myself is that we always lead and TEACH the kids by example of our own behavior. As a coach, I hit a low point in early 2000s and made a promise that I would never allow that to happen again.

The videos below is a reminder to me, and to all of us, that "Attitudes are Contagious" and we owe it to the kids to always make the game about them. Never about us! The video below is in two parts and is about 25 minutes long, but well worth the watch. You will be amazed about what we can sound like from the sideline and the negative impact we can have on the game and each player.

The video was created by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. "Attitudes are Contagious"

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR5vHEDzEV0>

Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kvj7_lgg9GA