



Parent Expectations Policy

At Sporting Padula Soccer Academy, we are committed to providing quality soccer training in an environment that is positive and nurturing for all of our members. Cooperation between players, parents, and coaches is essential to deliver on this commitment. Therefore, all parents must adhere to the following expectations:

- **Enjoy the game**
Soccer is a beautiful game that can teach us a lot about life. We rely on you to support us in our effort to teach the players to become better athletes and respectful competitors. Remember, if the kids aren't having fun, we're missing the whole point of youth soccer.
- **Watch practice from a distance**
This time is for the coaching staff to work with the players and for them to enjoy their time with each other. Please don't interact with the players during trainings any more than you would while they are sitting in their classroom at school. This includes cheering and standing/sitting alongside the practice field.
- **Be Supportive**
During games, try to be supportive, rather than coaching from the sidelines. As coaches, not only do we focus on your child's technical development, we also spend a lot of time developing their decision-making skills. One of the most effective ways to develop good decision making is to allow players to make decisions on their own without fear of reprimand. If a player relies on a coach to yell at him/her when to should shoot, for example, then the player never gets to practice making this decision himself/herself. We try hard to create an environment where players can make their own decisions without the fear of making mistakes, this can be shattered very quickly if the players hear a constant stream of commands from spectators. Giving players explicit instructions during a game may help to win that particular game. However, our primary intent is to develop players that can compete at the highest level. Winning one particular game is not worth sacrificing the development of our players.
- **Avoid Lectures**
Parents with good intentions may give a lecture, covering all the player's supposed deficiencies and offer playing advice, in the car on the way to each match. However, the result is kids often arrive far off their optimal mental state, dreading the critique they are likely to hear, whether they want it or not, on the way home. For the best results, parents should memorize and use the following: Before the match: 1) I LOVE YOU. 2) ENJOY THE GAME
After the match: 1) IT WAS GREAT TO SEE YOU PLAY. 2) HOW DO YOU FEEL? 3) DID YOU HAVE FUN?
- **Avoid rewards and punishments**
Please avoid rewarding players for certain types of play. Paying your child for every time he/she scores can lead to poor decision making on the field (i.e. shooting when a pass was the better choice). Also avoid punishments, such as grounding a player who doesn't score. Players grow much faster when they aren't scared of making a bad decision.
- **Help teach good nutrition**
Coaches will often speak with the players about what they should be eating before and after games and practices. Many younger players rely on their parents to cook for them or to buy them meals. If a coach has told the players to eat a light lunch of fruits and grains, then ***please don't go to MacDonald's for lunch!*** Likewise, players need to have enough cool water to stay hydrated during games and practices. This means an insulated water jug with some ice. We also offer a 28oz BPA free water bottle for sale in our online store for those who may wish to purchase one.
- **Respect coaches, opponents and referees.**
Apart from the on field training we provide; we also teach our players to be respectful of the game. Respect, Commitment and Integrity are the core values of our club, and we rely on your support in reinforcing these values. There is never a place in youth sports to use vulgarities, threaten, intimidate, or use physical aggression toward coaches, opponents or referees. If there are inappropriate actions such as these named above, we reserve the right to remove the parent and his/her child from the program.

By signing this form, I acknowledge the expectations for involvement in Sporting Padula Soccer Academy and agree to adhere to those expectations as outlined above.

Name: _____

Signature:  _____

Date: _____