

COED 4-5 Game Day Tips

- Remember your whistle
- Designate a parent to run the 20 minute clock
- Designate an assistant or parent to manage the substitutions, every 3 or 4 minutes
 - They can use a stop watch to keep track
 - Make sure kids who sat out at the start of the game get to start in the 2nd half
- It is OK to win. It is OK to lose.
- It is OK to win every game. It is OK to lose every game.
- If you are losing resist the temptation to leave your best player in the game. You want to give the players equal playing time.
- If the ball goes out of bounds, now and then you may want to give the kids leeway before blowing the whistle, to keep the game moving
- The kickoff to start the game and 2nd half, and after each goal that is scored: Set the ball on the center mark.
 - 1 team kicks off to start the game
 - The other team kicks off to start the 2nd half
 - The team that gave up the goal, kicks off following a goal
 - Players kicking off stand on the center line
 - Players defending the kickoff stand on or outside the center circle
- You do not need to switch sides after the first half. Parents already have their foldout chairs setup and you will want your kids to have easy access to their parents while on the sideline
- Let a player rest if they need rest, a red face is a good indication, same with water breaks
- Let a player rest as long as they need to rest. If they are tired and miss their turn in the rotation, it is OK. Their endurance may build over the course of the season.
- Parents or coaches might try to push their kid to get back on the field but sometimes they are just not having a good day, and that's OK
- Be aware of the perception of "coach's child favoritism"
 - You may unintentionally play your child more than others, keep the playing time fair and balanced
 - You can avoid this perception by having your child rest at the start of the game and the half, with an occasional start
- Be prepared for a significant variation in ability, tending to the weaker players with patience, and praise for even the smallest accomplishment.