

Basic Etiquette During a Game:

- ❖ Have players stand on sideline with you, away from midfield. When preparing to enter the field for substitutions, players stand at midfield and wait until the referee signals them to sub in. **Coaches do NOT step onto the field or stop play** for substitutions. There are no “timeouts”.
- ❖ Parents sit on the OPPOSITE side of the field, not on the side with the players and NOT behind the goals.
- ❖ Set a positive example for the players. Stay calm and stay in one place. Do NOT run up and down the sideline yelling instructions. Do not cross midfield; stay on your side.
- ❖ Relax--Enjoy the game! You have coached and taught the players during practice and clinics, now let them play. Your job is to control yourself (easier said than done) and the spectators. Observe the play; give some encouragement and constructive comments. Practices are for training. Games are for observing what has been taught
- ❖ Rotate your players through all positions
- ❖ Stress that players stay away from each other; separate from teammates and opponents.
- ❖ Encourage learning & tolerate mistakes If your team is learning & trying new things, they will make a lot of mistakes. Encourage them to try new things & encourage the effort even if it doesn't work. Examples: "Great try. Keep it up." or "Good idea; try it again." Don't over analyze--mistakes are part of the game. Don't be hard on your players or yourself.
- ❖ Parents and players hearing you identify a “well done play” by the opponent also goes a long way!
- ❖ Rewarding or Punishing Performance. Never punish or scold a child for lack of ability. All you can expect them to do is their best. Measure each player's performance by their personal improvement & effort, and not by comparing them to someone else.
- ❖ Try to motivate in a positive way that builds self-esteem. Be a good role model. To a large degree, your players & parents will follow your lead.
- ❖ Remember not only are parents watching their children during the game they are also watching you.

Teams have been weighted as evenly as possible to insure level competition. In the case of one-sided scores, such as a 5+ goal lead, coaches are strongly encouraged to adjust field play accordingly. Remember, high scoring games are not the norm in soccer and set unrealistic expectations for future play. As a NSCCL coach you really are there to set an example for ALL players on the field, not just those listed on your roster.

- ❖ Restrict players to use only their weaker foot (i.e. if player is a lefty have them use only their right foot or vice versa).
- ❖ Restrict the number of touches that a player has (i.e. the player may only touch twice and then has to pass the ball).
- ❖ Challenge the players that they may only score with their head
- ❖ Challenge the players that they can only score on one-time shots

If you rotate all players through every field position and in goal and follow the suggestions above you will actually further challenge your team, developing greater skills and a better understanding of sportsmanship.

After a Game:

- ❖ Give opposing team a cheer.
- ❖ Players & coaches usually line up facing each other on the halfway line, walk past each other, touch hands and say "good game".
- ❖ Coaches are usually last in line, shake hands and also say “Good game”
- ❖ Players should then lead the line over towards the referee, thank them whether you win or lose.
- ❖ Talk to team for 5 minutes – ok if parents attend. Game wrap-up. What did we do well? What could we do better? Ask kids for their thoughts.
- ❖ Leave on good terms.
- ❖ Report Score.