

## **Parent's Role in Youth Soccer**

The Sherwood Youth Soccer Club wants to reiterate that coaches, players, management, parents and anyone else associated with the team reflect globally on The Club. We would like all the people we come in contact with to say the Club members are competitors, but very professional. To that end, the role of the parent is extremely important for all young athletes.

Whether it is training, during a game, or on the ride home it is essential that there is positive feedback. At training and games players should feel that they can perform what the coach is asking them to do and not what their parents are asking them to do. The youth soccer club is much like a school system in that there are many developmental aspects that have to be covered in order to get to the final product. As a group of parents, please use your influence to support the team and your son/daughter in a positive manner. Some things that we cannot tolerate include:

1. Yelling at the referee
2. Yelling at other players and parents
3. Giving tactical instructions to children and coaching from the sideline
4. Yelling for changes to the coach
5. Verbal negativity when things are not going well

It is the child's soccer and life-shaping experience – the ability for them to make their own game decisions is critical to their development. We want to encourage you to support the team and your son/daughter in the most positive manner you can. The finish line is years away and many steps and hurdles need to be accomplished prior to that time.

## **Open communication with the coach is always welcome**

Parents have both a right and responsibility to inquire about all activities that their children are involved in. Communication is a two-way street. Fostering two-way communication does not mean that parents are free to be disrespectful toward coaches, referees, other parents, or other players in words or actions. Rather, it is an invitation for parents to express their genuine concerns with the assurance that they will be heard by the coach. Timing is critical – check with your coach on their preferred time and method of communication.

You are a great group of parents and have talented players who need their parents to be supportive and encouraging while letting the coaches coach and the referees officiate. Of course there are going to be decisions made and calls made that you don't like or agree with. Let's set a good example for the players as to how you can deal with those situations with open, respectful communication. You won't always get things to go your way in any area of life, so let's model for the young ones early on how to move on and not focus on small game-by-game setbacks.