

## **SIDE LINE SUGGESTIONS**

(10 Things Kids Say They Don't Want Their Parents to Do)

by Darrell J. Burnett, PhD

1. **Don't yell out instructions.** During the game I'm trying to concentrate on what the coach says and working on what I've been practicing. It's easier for me to do my best if you save instructions and reminders for practice or just before the game.
2. **Don't put down the officials.** This embarrasses me and I sometimes wonder whether the official is going to be tougher on me because my parents yell.
3. **Don't yell at me in public.** It will just make things worse because I'll be upset, embarrassed, or worried that you're going to yell at me the next time I do something "wrong."
4. **Don't yell at the coach.** When you yell about who gets to play what position, it just stirs things up and takes away from the fun.
5. **Don't put down my teammates.** Don't make put-down remarks about any of my teammates who make mistakes. It takes away from our team spirit.
6. **Don't put down the other team.** When you do this you're not giving us a very good example of sportsmanship so we get mixed messages about being "good sports."
7. **Don't lose your cool.** I love to see you excited about the game, but there's no reason to get so upset that you lose your temper! It's our game and all the attention is supposed to be on us.
8. **Don't lecture me about mistakes after the game.** Those rides home in the car after the game are not a good time for lectures about how I messed up – I already feel bad. We can talk later, but please stay calm, and don't forget to mention things I did well during the game.
9. **Don't forget how to laugh and have fun.** Sometimes it's hard for me to relax and have fun during the game when I look over and see you so tense and worried.
10. **Don't forget that it's just a game!** Odds are I'm not going to make a career out of playing sports. I know I may get upset if we lose, but I also know that I'm usually feeling better after we go get a pizza. I need to be reminded sometimes that it's just a game.



# **EMPIRE SOCCER CLUB**

## **Game Policies and Code of Conduct**

### **Excerpts**

#### **From Recreational League policies & procedures**

##### **1.9. Games**

**1.9.5.** All substitutes, coaches, parents, and other spectators, must remain off the field and in the area designated by the referee at all times. No one is to be in the vicinity of the goal area or goal line. Coaches and/or players and/or Parents are not to enter the field unless authorized by the referee, including in situations where assistance to an injured player is required.

#### **From Recreational League Code of Conduct**

##### **2.11. Team Coordinators**

**2.12.** Team Coordinator behavior is the tone that is set for how other parents on your team will behave. They must exemplify the behavior as set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

##### **3. Parents**

**3.1.** Be a role model to your child. The game is for your child, not for you. Encourage and support your child in meeting his/her responsibilities. Set a good example by your conduct and sportsmanship.

**3.2.** Do not engage in inappropriate behavior during practices, games, team or club sponsored events and/or tournaments. Do not direct the play of the game, yell instructions to any player, or attempt to coach from the sideline, unless as directed by the coach. Save vocal encouragement until after a good play. "Run", "shoot", "pass", are not good examples of vocal encouragement.

**3.3. Do not argue with or criticize** the referee or assistant referees.

**3.4.** Any abuse or improper conduct by a parent toward a player, coach, referee or League member will be cause for that person and respective child to be expelled from the League without a refund.

**3.5.** Learn the Rules of the Game. Conform to the rules established by the League.

**3.6.** Do not bring dogs to practices and games.

**3.7.** Appreciate the volunteers for the League, including your child's coaches and Coordinator.

**3.8.** Code of conduct must be adhered to or your child will not play.

**3.9.** Parents must stand in the designated areas of the field during games. Parents must stay off the field during practices or games unless authorized by the Referee during a game or the coach during practice.

*Complete Policies & Procedures and Code of Conduct can be found on the league website: [www.EmpireSoccerClub.org](http://www.EmpireSoccerClub.org)*