

FAN ETIQUETTE



Recreational soccer is a great opportunity for children to learn important life lessons in a low-risk environment where failure just hurts their pride. The games feel important at the time, but at the end of the day, a win or a loss doesn't directly impact a player's future. However, learning how to handle loss, and how to handle success, are critical skills that will stick with players throughout life. So as adults, it's important that we give players the best opportunity to learn the skills, and we set a good example.

Below are 7 things we parents and family members should keep in mind when attending OSC games:

- 1. Relax and Have Fun!** – Players have the most fun when the fans are having fun. Don't stress. No scholarships are being handed out. The kids are literally here to play!
- 2. Let Coaches Coach** – Your coaches are volunteers and care deeply about kids in the community. Let them do their job and refer back to item #1 above. Asking players to do something different from what their coach is telling them can create confusion. And yelling anything but encouragement during games can be unnerving to players.
- 3. Respect Referees** – Referees are easy targets, aren't they? They don't always see things the same way fans do on the sidelines. This is an area where you can set a great example for kids by never ridiculing referees during games. You would be amazed how hard it is to find good referees because of abuse they receive. Again, refer back to #1!
- 4. Respect the Other Team** – It's funny how many people assume the players/parents on the other team are the enemy. But they're just like you, wanting the best for their kids, paying registration fees and hauling their kids to practices. You get extra credit when you compliment a player from the other team!
- 5. Support Your Team** – Bring treats. Use team chats to share what you loved about the game. Provide encouragement when times are tough. Celebrate when times are good. Be the example of what you want the players on the team to do for each other.
- 6. Sit Behind the "Dashed Line"** – To keep things orderly, we ask that all fans sit on the side of the field opposite the player benches. Only coaches and players are allowed on the team side of the field. While it's tempting to sit near your player, or behind the goals, the seating area helps everyone live up to items 1-5 above. Sitting behind the dashed line on that side of the field also gives referees room to work along the sideline. See the back of this sheet for field layouts.
- 7. 3 Goal Rule** – To help keep games competitive and fun for all players, OSC limits goal scoring in certain situations for the U14 division and below. The "3 Goal Rule" applies in two parts: 1) each player is limited to a maximum of 3 goals per game, and 2) while a team is up by 3 or more goals, any player from that team who has scored is ineligible to score again. If a goal is scored by a player who falls under the 3 Goal Rule, the result is a goal kick for the opposing team.
- 8. Incident Reporting** – To report an incident to OSC, please wait at least 24 hours, and then go to the 'Contact Us' section of our website (www.ottawasc.com) and complete our Incident Report Form. We may not be able to solve every problem, but we want to hear from you!

OSC Field Layouts – PECK PARK AREA OVERVIEW



OSC Field Layouts - DETAIL

