



10 Commandments For Soccer Parents

THOU SHALL NOT IMPOSE YOUR AMBITIONS ON THY CHILD

Remember that soccer is your child's activity. Improvements and progress occur at different rates for each individual. Don't judge your child's progress based on the performance of other athletes and don't push them based on what you think they should be doing. Soccer is a team sport; progress is often-times measured on how the team performs, not just the individual.

THOU SHALL BE SUPPORTIVE NO MATTER WHAT

There is only one question to ask your child, "Did you have fun?" If games and practices are not fun, your child should not be forced to participate. **COHESIVENESS:** Getting along and respecting one another. We will not tolerate talk that is detrimental to the team, whether it is about someone's child or about another parent.

THOU SHALL NOT COACH YOUR CHILD

You have taken your child to a licensed coach; do not undermine that coach by trying to coach the child on the side. Your job is to support, love and hug your child no matter what. The coach is responsible for the technical part of the job. You should not offer advice or technique or strategy. That is not your area. This will only serve to confuse your child and prevent that player/coach bond from developing.

THOU SHALL ONLY HAVE POSITIVE THINGS TO SAY AT A GAME

When at games, you should cheer and applaud, but never criticize your child or your child's coach.

THOU SHALL ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHILD'S FEARS

The first game or tournament can be a stressful situation. It is totally appropriate for your child to be scared. Don't yell or belittle, just assure your child that the coach would not have entered if the team were not ready to play in the game.

THOU SHALL NOT CRITICIZE THE OFFICIALS

If you do not have the time or desire to volunteer as an official, don't criticize those who are doing the best they can. Youth soccer games rely on youth referees. Not only are the players learning, so are the referees. They are the referees of the future, and must be encouraged.

HONOR THY CHILD'S COACH

The bond between player and coach is a special one, and one that contributes to your child's success as well as fun. Do not criticize the coach in the presence of your child; it will only serve to hurt your child's soccer experience.

THOU SHALL NOT JUMP FROM TEAM TO TEAM

The grass isn't necessarily greener at the other team's field. Every team has its own internal problems, even teams that build champions. Children who switch from team to team are often ostracized for a long, long time by the teammates they leave behind. Often times players who do switch never perform better than they did before they sought the greener grass.

THY CHILD SHALL HAVE GOALS BESIDES WINNING

Giving an honest effort, regardless of the outcome, is much more important than winning. This is youth soccer, and building soccer players for the future is our goal. Teaching soccer to kids so they may play the game throughout high school or college and developing a life-long love of the game is more important than winning the U-9 state championship.

THOU SHALL NOT EXPECT THY CHILD TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD CUP

There are 3,000,000 kids in the United States Youth Soccer Association. There are only 40 spots on the World Cup Team every four years. Your child's odds for competing in the World Cup are about 1 in 75,000. Soccer is so much more than the World Cup, or the Olympics. Ask your coach why he coaches. Chances are he wants to pass the love for the sport on to others. Soccer teaches teamwork and sportsmanship; it builds self-esteem and fitness; it provides lifelong friendships and much more. Soccer builds good kids and you should be happy that your child wants to participate.