



**PLAYERS CLUB OF TAMPA BAY, INC.**  
**1850 WindingWood Ave.**  
**Brandon, Fl. 33595 Phone 813 661 1974**  
[www.playersclubsoccer.com](http://www.playersclubsoccer.com)



## **PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### **Six guidelines for soccer parents**

- Cheer
- Relax and let them play
- Yelling directions = Distraction
- Remember, they are your kids
- Have reasonable expectations
- Meet with the coaches

### **Introduction to youth soccer**

- I just signed my child up for soccer! Now what do I do?
- I don't know anything about this game.
- I know that a lot of kids play it and love it. I know they use a white ball with some designs on it that looks like a basketball, but rolls on the ground.  
Relax and prepare for FUN. Kids love soccer because it is FUN!
- From an early age, every child loves to play with a ball. Soccer is just playing with the ball, except with others and with a few simple rules. Soccer is having FUN!
- The rules at the basic level are: the ball is shared with your teammates; the ball is kept away from your opponents; everyone has to "play nice;" every child gets their time with the ball and everyone has FUN!

### **Basic equipment for soccer parents**

- Comfortable lawn chair – comfort is important because chances are, you are going to be spending a lot of the time sitting in that chair watching youth soccer players having FUN!
- Comfortable clothing – chances are you will be out in the sun, the rain, the heat and the cold. Dress to be comfortable so you can sit in that chair and watch youth soccer players having FUN!
- A sense of humor and enjoy at watching youth soccer players have FUN!



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### **How to be supportive soccer parents**

- Give consistent encouragement and support to the children regardless of the degree of success, level of skill or time on the field.
- Stress the importance of respect for coaches and team mates and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the TEAM and its success.
- Serve as role models, see the “BIG PICTURE” and support all programs and all players.
- Leave coaching to coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance.
- Avoid putting pressure on the children about playing time and performance.

### **Four red cards for parents**

1. Living out dreams: A parent who is continuing to live personal athletic dreams through his/her child has not released his/her child to the game
2. Too involved: If a parent tends to share in the credit when the child has done well in sport or has been victorious, the parent is too involved
3. Trying too hard: if a parent is trying to continue to coach his child when the child probably knows more about the game than the parent does, he has not released the youth athlete
4. Too serious: A parent should realize that he is taking everything too seriously and has not released the child to the activity when the parent:
  - Is nervous before his/her child's game
  - Has a difficult time bouncing back when the player's team suffers a defeat
  - Makes mental notes during a game so he can give his/her child advice at the conclusion of the game
  - Becomes verbally critical of an official

From “Teaching Character through Sport: Developing a positive coaching legacy”  
By Bruce Brown



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### **Why do players play?**

- To have fun
- To be with their friends
- To make new friends
- To improve and learn
- To feel good
- To wear the stuff

### **Why do players quit?**

- Criticism and yelling
- No playing time
- Over-emphasis on winning
- Poor communication
- Fear of making mistakes
- Boredom
- Not learning

*“Adult spectators, coaches and league administrators are guests at the children’s games. We are guests because if no adult attended, our hosts, the children, could still have a game.”*

- Douglas E. Abrams, University of Missouri – Columbia School of Law

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