

As a parent, you want the best for your children and therefore may be hypersensitive and defensive towards anything you perceive to threaten them. This is completely understandable; however, the team environment puts together a large group of parents with these same sensibilities. It is paramount that all parties understand the potential for misunderstanding and how high emotions can run and adhere to the following rules in order to maintain a positive environment.

All interactions with other parents on the team must remain cordial at all times.

Avoid criticism, or anything that could be construed as criticism, of other players on the team.

Avoid criticism, or anything that could be construed as criticism, of the coach.

Avoid any criticism of other parents in earshot of other parents or players on the team, including your own children.

In the event that you are aware of, or subject to, someone breaking the rules above, please refer to the conflict resolution section below.

Practice

1. Have your child at the practice location, properly attired (footwear, shinguards, weather appropriate, etc.), with a suitable ball (appropriate size, inflated, etc.), ready for practice to begin.
2. Have a responsible person prepared to take charge of your child immediately after practice.
3. Make sure that the coach is aware in plenty of time of any time your child will miss, be late for, or leave early from practice.
4. If you choose to remain to watch practice-
 - a. Do not interfere with practice in any way.
 - b. Do not interact with players or coaches once practice has commenced.
 - c. Remain at a discrete distance from drills.
 - d. Remain at a discrete distance from the players' water break area.
 - e. Discourage your child from interacting with you during the session.

Games

1. Have your child at the game location, properly attired (footwear, shinguards, uniforms, etc.), with a suitable ball, ready for warm up to begin.
2. Do not enter the coaching/bench area once warm up has begun (except in the event of serious injury).
3. Restrict all communication with your child to encouragement and congratulations. Avoid ANY coaching during the game.
4. Comments to other players may only be encouragement/congratulations.
5. Do not communicate with the officials.
6. Communication with supporters of the other team must remain cordial at all times.
7. Do not communicate with players from the other team.
8. Remain away from the team until the coach releases the players.
9. Have a responsible person prepared to take charge of your child immediately after the game.

Conflict Resolution

1. Playing time

At some point during their playing career, almost every player will endure a period of playing less than he or she prefers. This should be viewed as a major learning experience for the child and an opportunity to positively mold their character.

In the event of a disciplinary issue, it is important that you make your child take responsibility for their actions and support the responsibility of the coach to set boundaries and enforce consequences to ensure a positive team environment.

While all players come to the table with different natural abilities, athleticism, etc., this natural talent is only a small indicator of the level of ability the player will end up attaining. A far bigger factor is how much time and effort they put into practicing and improving their skills. Michael Jordan was cut from the varsity basketball team in High School. They should already know what areas the coach thinks that they need to improve on (if not, find out) and encourage them to work extra on them. The coach will provide suggestions of extra work to do. Empower the child with the understanding that their success is in their hands and that by hard work they can overcome the obstacles they find in their way. They is a hugely important life lesson as we strive to develop young adults who welcome challenges rather than shy away from or avoid them.

Follow the below steps if you and your child do not know why your child is playing less, or if you believe that your child is being treated unfairly.

- a. Make sure that you are well versed in the playing time policy in the club manual.
- b. Make sure that you are aware of your coach's playing time policy as presented to you in the preseason meeting.
- c. Ask your child why he/she may be suffering from less playing time than you hoped.
- d. Call the coach on the phone (or contact by email) and politely ask why your child played less than you expected.
- e. If this does not rectify the issues, contact the DOC and request a meeting.

2. Other parents

The parent group is an intrinsic part of the soccer team (and club) and any issues between parents can quickly affect the players. The parent group (just like the team) is likely made up of people from very different backgrounds and with very different personalities. You may not naturally get on well with every member of the group, just like your child will have teammates that they find easier and harder to be friends with. It is paramount, however, that everyone is cordial and can work together, even if there are certain parents that would not choose to socialize with each other.

Remember that you are a role model and mentor for your child and that by modeling how to cooperate and positively coexist with someone that you don't particularly like, you are demonstrating skills that he/she will undoubtedly need throughout their soccer career and life in general.

- a. Avoid being in locations that may exacerbate the conflict before it is resolved.

Leaving the Club

At the end of each season, provided that the player is in good financial standing with the club, the player will be automatically released to join another club should he/she so choose.

In the middle of any season, a player will be released to join any club provided the following conditions are met:

- a) The new club has not broken CalSouth/US Club rules in recruiting the player.
- b) The player is currently in financial good standing with Our Club.
- c) The player has paid 100% of any remaining projected team dues into the team account*

*Although Our Club has no desire to keep or financially punish any player that is unhappy with the club, we also feel that it is unfair to punish the rest of the team by having to pay significantly increased team fees (tournament, per diem, hotels, etc.) if a player chooses not to uphold their original commitment to the team.

Disciplinary Procedure

In the case of a parent breaking this code of conduct, the discipline procedure is stated below:

1. For minor infractions, parent will be reminded of the expectations by the coach via email.
2. For major or repeated minor infractions, a meeting will be arranged with the Coach, parent and DOC in attendance. Witnesses or witness statements will be used as applicable. Possible disciplinary measures are listed below in a potential order of severity:
 - a. Written warning
 - b. Probationary period
 - c. Suspension from location of practices/games of parent
 - d. Suspension from practices/games of player
 - e. Removal from club

* Conflict of Interest Policy - Any club staff member or advisory board member will recuse themselves from any proceeding that directly involves their business interests or a member of their family.