



Parent and Family Responsibilities

Here at Northampton Soccer Club we want parents and families to share the responsibility of creating a fun and safe learning environment for players at practices and games. Creating this environment will ensure that players can build the right skills, build confidence in themselves, build their understanding of good sportsmanship and, most importantly, have fun! We would love for parents, families and friends to follow this code of conduct for our game day behavior on the side-lines:

- **Avoid shouting phrases like “Kick it” “Punt it” “Send it”**

Why? This is not the style of play we want to encourage our players to do, even if it means saving or scoring a goal.

- **Lots of encouragement when players attempt to keep possession and play out the back, even if it goes wrong.**

Why? The more praise and encouragement they get the more likely they are to keep trying and gain confidence in doing so. Negative reactions will make them not want to try for fear of making a mistake.

- **Lots of encouragement, period!**

Why? Fear of making mistakes can impact negatively on the development and performance of a player. A player who is learning and developing new skills will make mistakes. A parent can support the player and encourage them to feel free to express themselves and learn from these mistakes. Remember, making mistakes gives the coaches opportunities to provide the players with useful information!

- **Try not to focus everything on the result of the game.**

Why? We want players to focus on how they are playing, not the final score.

- **Keep calm, cool and collected on the sidelines.**

Why? We want players to play in as much of a stress-free environment as possible. An example of this is that when players are on a break away, it is sometimes tempting to get very excited and shout “GO GO!” However, even this seemingly positive behavior can put a lot of stress on the player!



- **When a player is on the ball absolutely no shouting instructions!**

Why? This one is really important! We want players to be able to make their own decisions and mistakes in a game. If we constantly give them instructions on what to do then they will stop thinking for themselves. Save your encouragement for after they have moved the ball on. Or even better, when the ball is out of bounds. **Let the coach do the coaching.** Multiple sets of instructions from both sidelines can be confusing and distracting.

- **No shouting at the Referee.... Ever!**

Why? Parents do not need to have any interaction with the referee during the game. We promise that the referee is not there to ruin you or your child's day. They are trying their best and everyone makes mistake. You would not shout at a player for a mistake, so please do not shout at a referee. Please be role models for the players. If they see you shouting at a referee they will pick up on this and start to do it themselves! There will be zero tolerance for anyone shouting at a referee.

- **No comments on the other team (unless its encouragement)**

Why? Opposing players and coaches must be treated with respect. In no case should players or family members yell or argue with opposing players or coaches. We do, however, highly encourage being positive when you see great play from either side on the field, and creating a positive experience for all of the players.

- **Let them direct the conversation on the ride home**

Why? If a player wants to talk about the game then they will, if they don't want to they normally won't. Try to avoid phrases like "what happened with that last shot there" and "why did you not pass the ball across?" A good rule of thumb is to let the player talk first - if they want to talk about it, fantastic!

Thank you very much for following the NSC code of conduct and we hope you have a great season!