



A GOOD YOUTH SOCCER COACH

- ❖ Is an educator/facilitator/role model that *teaches* children how to have fun and play soccer.
- ❖ Treats the players and parents with dignity and respect. Teaches sportsmanship and doesn't pay it "lip service".
- ❖ Educates themselves about soccer through books, videos, clinics and courses. You're giving your all; why not make sure the children get the right start?
- ❖ Recognizes winning is only a consequence of practicing and playing well. Winning isn't as important, nor losing as bad, as most parents believe. Doesn't mind losing a match, because defeat is always a possibility and an acceptable part of the learning process. Avoids post-game analysis.
- ❖ Treats all referees with respect, and teaches players to do the same thing. Recognizes that referee's decisions are final and without argument.
- ❖ Remains calm, serene, buries their ego and refrains from sprinting/jumping up and down the touchline. Coaches with controlled passion for the game.
- ❖ Is a model of grace, dignity and composure in both victory and defeat.
- ❖ Coaches and praises players of all abilities, not just the best players and his/her own children. Abides by FIFA's 10 Golden Rules (www.fifa.com).
- ❖ Tries to encourage individual initiative and creativity in practice and allows players to do the same during a match, even if mistakes are made. Appreciates outstanding players on both sides of the field.
- ❖ Provides leadership, kindness, praise, encouragement, organization, teaching and discipline.
- ❖ Doesn't re-live real or imagined past glories through their children's youth soccer games.
- ❖ Attempts to educate parents on the finer points of the game. The coach should train parents to praise the children for creative play rather than chants of "boot it". Parents must be taught that contradicting the coaches' instructions could confuse the children.
- ❖ Recognizes that they can't solve problems during the game that were not addressed in practice.
- ❖ Utilizes the "Praise Sandwich" as a motivational technique. The coach should praise the child's effort, offer gentle constructive criticism, and praise again. Speaks at their level, not down to them.
- ❖ Sets realistic developmental expectations for the children. Coaches what talent he/she has, you'll always be missing something on your team.

