

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing on behalf of the Coastal Youth Soccer League regarding positivity on the sidelines at games. The league wants to demonstrate good sportsmanship and positive role-modeling to our children, students, players, visiting teams and referees. Therefore, we are all asking that you “Push Positive” and promote positivity at home, at games, at practice, and anywhere that you can.

Some tips for being positive sideline parents, as referenced by Psychology Today (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/how-raise-happy-cooperative-child/201404/tips-being-positive-sidelines-parent>), include:

1. Attend your child’s games. If you coach, you may want to bring snacks or beverages to fuel your team.
2. Notice any negative interactions between the coach and players or between teammates. Bring them up to the coach, away from the players.
3. Don’t coach from the sidelines. Avoid doing this to avoid contradicting the coach’s instruction and confusing your child.
4. Always relate positively to your child’s efforts. Saying things like “Good Try” are helpful for your child to hear. Criticism can make a child feel like your love depends on their success.
5. Cheer from the sidelines. Remember this should be an enjoyable experience that you both share.
6. Point out positives on the ride home.
7. Help your child strengthen their skills by getting outside and practicing with them.
8. Acknowledge your child’s feelings. If they are frustrated by the results of the game, listen to them and give support.

It is also important to keep in mind supporting our referees. Many of the referees are teenagers. They participate in these soccer games because it is their passion, they enjoy the sport and helping others. They require the same level of support as your young player.

We have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators at all athletic events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Thank you for your cooperation in promoting positivity!