

Ten Tips for Soccer Parents

By Liam Power, President Power Soccer

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- 1) Your child should be playing, not sitting on the bench, regardless of the level they participate in. Coaches who pick players should play them.
- 2) Avoid placing your child with youth coaches whose main objective is to win games above all else. Youth soccer is not professional soccer.
- 3) Up to the age of 15/16, players need to develop their skills, body strength and experience. They need to play and gain experience doing so. At ages 15-16, young adults have a better understanding, appreciation and desire to win. Up to that point they need to have had the opportunity to develop.
- 4) Soccer should build self-esteem in your child, not the opposite.
- 5) Listen to the coach, is she praising in public and doing the critique in private?
- 6) If you cannot say something positive to your child after the game, then say nothing.
- 7) Soccer is more than learning technical skills, it is about life skills: team building, communication, participation, discipline and commitment. Look for coaches who see the whole picture. Ask coaches about their philosophy but remember that actions speak louder than words.
- 8) Don't criticize the coach, offer to help. Communicate your positive comments or concerns with him or her. She/he is likely a volunteer.
- 9) Be realistic about your child's' ability. Do not push your child into a level that is too advanced for her.
- 10) Encourage your son or daughter to stay in soccer. The social, physical and emotional benefits are life lasting. Soccer is a great game!