

WHAT IS MY ROLE AS THE COACH?

- 1.** Make sure your Registration and Disclosure paperwork has been turned in to your club before starting your practice or game schedule.
- 2.** Players must be on your roster (given to you by your division director) to be able to play or practice with your team. This ensures that they are properly registered and covered by insurance.
- 3.** Have medical release forms with you at all times.
- 4.** Know special needs of all players.
- 5.** Communicate with parents regarding practices and game times.
- 5.** Supervise players, prohibiting unacceptable activities or behavior.
- 7.** Make safety a top priority!
- 8.** Make "FUN" your number one goal in recreational soccer.
- 9.** Never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
- 10.** Instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
- 11.** Do not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsman-like behavior.
- 12.** Coaches should never tolerate inappropriate behavior from players.
- 13.** Coaches should direct players to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery.
- 14.** Coaches should have a basic understanding of the fundamentals of soccer and be able to teach the team in a positive and fun environment.
- 15.** Coaches are responsible for showing up to their game on time, ensuring that all their players are properly dressed and with all the equipment they need to play their game.
- 16.** You must have a clear cut idea of what you want to achieve as a coach.

Consider ideas like:

- a. Winning vs. Losing
- b. Teaching skills, even though you are likely to lose games to teams that rely on playing physically. The skilled players will be better off in the long run.
- c. Total development vs. single position improvement.
- d. Relation of parents and spectators to players, referees and opponents.
- e. Playing soccer vs. "Kick and Run".
- f. Development of all players on your team.

If you're going to put some time into the development of young soccer players, you're also going to have to put some time into developing yourself. You'll have to gain insight into teaching methods, dealing with children, coaching developments, etc. The following are some suggestions:

- 1.** Attend coaching clinics whenever possible.
- 2.** Read Soccer books. The more opinions and methods you come across, the better.
- 3.** Watch higher levels of play. Go see college games in your area. View U19 and High School soccer.

Ask and take advice of experienced coaches in your area. Realize that we don't teach 19 year olds the same as 16 year olds or 12 year olds the same as 6 year olds but there are similar principals.