



## FUNFIRST: 8 SIMPLE RULES

What We Expect from Parents of Rec Players

1. We expect all parents to understand and support our recreational program's **FunFirst** philosophy. The **FunFirst** philosophy is to give our recreation players the opportunity to **enjoy** soccer. The focus on **FunFirst** lays a foundation for everything else soccer related. The more time children spend playing, the better they will become. The better a player becomes, the more willing they will be to further hone their skills, eventually practicing finer points in order to be better, in order to enjoy the game more and have more fun. It is a cycle that has been shown to be effective; ultimately the success of the cycle depends on **fun**.
2. Get your child to practices and games on time and pick them up promptly. This shows your child that they are important and shows respect for your child's coach.
3. Let the coach do all coaching during the game. Words of encouragement are welcome! But please do not yell instructions to your child. Yelling instructions distracts your child and disrupts the **fun** and learning that takes place during games—something we tell our coaches as well.
4. Be **supportive** when your child makes errors and mistakes. Sports experts agree that making mistakes is a key part of the learning process and that learning cannot take place in an environment that discourages or creates a fear of mistakes. Helping your child manage mistakes effectively builds long term self-esteem and allows for a healthy view of sports.
5. Be your child's **best example** of good sportsmanship at all times. What your child sees you do sets one of the most important examples. Respect your coach, your child's team, the opponent's team, referees, other parents, spectators, and league officials. This includes making **only positive** comments about your child's coach, other players, other parents, and other teams in your child's presence.
6. Refrain from talking to the coach during games and practices. Their focus cannot be on your child or the other players which is where their attention needs to be. Feel free to approach them before or after these activities.
7. If you have a problem or complaint: please speak with your coach directly. If your problem is still unresolved, please contact the Recreation Coordinator, Recreation Program Chair or the Recreation Director of Coaching. Please visit our website for information on complaints.
8. Put **FunFirst** for you, your child, and those around you!

*Studies have shown that if a sport is **fun** for a child, the child will want to play more frequently.*

