



Sideline Etiquette

"Let the coaches coach and let the kids play!"

To ensure that everyone has a great experience, PYSL asks that you please keep the following in mind when attending your child's game.

Avoid 'coaching' from the sideline while watching your child's game

A common problem in youth sports is the impulse parents have to shout instructions to their young player from the sideline. It's especially difficult for a child because he or she has a tendency to refer to what a parent says, which may conflict with the instructions from the coach. Cheering is encouraged, but please - leave the coaching to the coaches.

Do not criticize the referee

Most of the referees that PYSL uses are learning themselves. The league has a lot of trouble finding young referees who are willing to make the training commitment to learn to referee -and that issue is compounded when referees face verbal abuse from parents while they are learning.

When parents go after a referee for what they perceive as a mistake, it begins to make the game about the adults rather than the kids. Remember, this is not the World Cup. Please help us make soccer a positive experience for everyone.

Focus on the benefits of the game rather than the score

Far too often parents worry about the score rather than the experience their child has while playing youth sports. While it is natural for everyone to want to win, parents need to keep focus on the larger picture. Youth sports is about player development and improvement. Losing is an important part of that process. Instead of asking "did you win?" try asking your child "Did you have fun today?" Your child won't remember the outcome of the games as much as he or she will remember whether or not they had fun.

Remain respectful of opposing fans

We are all part of the same Petaluma community. If you feel that something that the opposing fans are doing are inappropriate, bring it up to your coach so that they can discuss it with their counterpart and try to address the issue. Think twice about negative comments or criticisms of other parents- you should be setting an example for your child while at the game.

Save issues with the coach for the next day

Maybe you don't agree with how much your child played in a game or another decision the coach made during the match. It's important to take some time to think about it rather than confronting the coach in front of your child and the team. **Please remember, all of our PYSL coaches are volunteers.** They are paying the same registration fees that you are paying for their child to play, and are volunteering their time in addition to that.

If you do have feedback for the coach, please go home, talk to your family about it and get in touch with the coach the next day and try to address the issue. If after trying to address the issue directly with the coach, it hasn't been resolved to your satisfaction please contact one of our Division Directors.

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