



Coaches Tips

Before you ARRIVE

- Make sure snacks are covered for the first game. Usually parents rotate this responsibility.
- If you play at a level with a goal keeper, bring a penny or different colored shirt for the keeper to wear.
- Field Diagrams- figure out exactly where your team plays and relay this to the parents and players.
- Prepare your line up to ensure each player plays at least half of the game. Usually you want each player to play some in each half.
- Arrive early- plan on parking delays, etc. The team and parents will be looking for you to locate the field and rally point prior to the game.
- Have some extra water, sunscreen, and bug spray on hand. Usually, a few bandages (BandAids) are helpful too.
- Do not send children to the rest rooms alone. Use his/her parent or in the worse case scenario the buddy system if this is age appropriate.
- Encourage parents to let you know if their child is not going to be at the game.

BEFORE AND DURING THE GAME

- Pre-game: warm up in a small area and try to keep the balls/kids off of the field if another game is ongoing on your game field.
- Go over the starting line-up prior to gathering for the coin toss and prayer.
- IF you'd like to start the game with prayer gather both teams in the center circle when the referee calls for the teams. Have the coin toss, say a word of prayer together, and then quickly get your lineup on the field.
- Give the referees the benefit of the doubt. If you have ever had to referee, you know it is not an easy job. This sets a good example for your team and parents.
- Be willing to recruit a parent to be an Assistant Referee (AR) if it is needed or requested by the Center Referee.

- Please be aware of your sideline behaviors and demeanor. Encourage the kids and celebrate good play on both sides.
- DON'T OVER-COACH. Let the kids play and have FUN! ☺
- Also, remind your parents that their sideline behavior and etiquette is important, too! (Stay positive and constructive!)
- Make notes of what skills, tactics, or rules you need to work on in practices.
- Be flexible and keep smiling. It is only soccer and it is fun!

Other Miscellaneous Rules to Keep in Mind

- To have fun is our number one rule!
- Be a good role model for your team. (NO yelling-NO profanity)
- Uniforms- the players must wear shin guards covered by their socks. Please encourage your players to tuck in their jerseys.
- The goalie must wear a different color from the two teams. (Usually a penny or different colored tee shirt is sufficient).
- The referee has the final say on all decisions. Treat this person with dignity and respect. Keep in mind most of the younger age groups will have younger referees, please be mindful that adults may appear intimidating. Be gracious and kind to these younger ones as we need them for the game to grow.
- Substitutions- You may only substitute with the referee's permission on goal kicks, goals, halftime (or quarters), and **your** team's throw-ins. Have the substitute go to the center line and wait until they are called on the field. You may notify the referee politely, you wish to substitute a player.
- OFFSIDE (U7 AND ABOVE)- will be called at all levels which have a referee on the field. For the U-7 level and U-8 level, OFFSIDE will be called for those who are approximately five yards in an OFFSIDE position and effecting play. This is at the referee's discretion. For older groups it will be called more closely. (Please remember we are using this as a teaching point – not punishment)
- THROW-INS (U7 AND ABOVE) – both feet on ground and bring ball behind the head and release over the head. (Again, teaching tool, and if the kids make a mistake they will be allowed to RE-DO the throw).
- If you have a parent who is not being a good role model or harassing the referee, please be proactive and ask them to calm down.

Thank you for all you do to help grow soccer and healthy kids through the Summerville Soccer Club! We appreciate you!