

Radnor Soccer Club Positive Sidelines

We parents can help in the development of our children regarding sports and sportsmanship. Our coaches tell their teams to always "Honor the game" by their conduct in training, and games. A foundation of mutual respect lies under any successful practice, game, team, or season. The Positive Coaching Alliance uses the "ROOTS" program to help coaches define sportsmanship and honoring the game, by asking children to respect:

Rules...

Opponents...

Officials...

Team...

Self.

As parents, of course, we should aspire to do no less! Our conduct around the sport and the sidelines should be in step with what coaches are teaching our kids. While we all want to win, the game day is another tool in player development, a test and a learning opportunity, not a win at any cost objective. Soccer is a beautiful, free-flowing game, with multiple challenges and changing situations for the player on the field to solve. They do this on their own, without coach-scripted plays, as in some other sports. With the ball on their foot, and limited time and space, the player could go in any of 360 directions, or pass to multiple teammates, while as many as 11 opponents try hard to prevent this. Sideline yelling or coaching is unnerving to the child who is trying to execute in the flow of the game, and listen to his/her teammates and coach.

We parents and spectators should keep the following in mind:

- **Two top reasons children play soccer - to show their skills and HAVE FUN!**
- **Respect your coaches instructions on spectator positioning and expectations**
- **Refrain from sideline coaching, or any instruction to players (the coach's job)**
- **Respect the officials, don't address them (the coaches job)**
- **Keep comments positive, (applaud great play)**

Thanks for supporting RSC players and coaches.