



Guidelines for Saline FC Soccer Parents

Saline FC welcomes you and your child(ren) to our recreational-instructional playing league. This season will be full of joy and excitement. Here is a set of key pieces of information to put into perspective what we parents can do to ensure a successful season for all participants. Throughout the season look for more helpful information available online published in the Saline FC Sidelines.

Why do players play?	Why do players quit?
- To have FUN	- Criticism and yelling
- To be with their friends	- No playing time
- To make new friends	- Over-emphasis on winning
- To improve and learn	- Poor communication
- To feel good	- Fear of making mistakes
- To wear the stuff	- Boredom

The Basics

- Cheer – encourage your child, regardless of his or her degree of success or level of skill
- Relax and let them play
- Have reasonable expectations – avoid placing pressure on your youngster about playing time and performance
- Leave coaching to the coaches
- Parents yelling directions = distraction
- Serve as a role model, see the “big picture” and support all programs and players
- Get involved by helping the coaches/team with organizational tasks
- Remember what is FUN for them is more important than what is fun for you!

Four Emotional Needs of Players

- To play without unhealthy pressure to win imposed by parents and coaches
- To be treated like children, not miniature professionals
- To have adult role models whose sportsmanlike behavior helps make participation fun
- To play without adult-imposed pressure for financial gain inspired by professional or collegiate sports

The Ride Home

- Never punish what you perceive as failure
- Don't evaluate your child's performance. If your child had fun, the day was a success!
- Ask positive questions, such as: “Did you have fun today?” “What did you think you did well?” “Did you learn any new moves?” or, “I really liked when I saw you do _____.”

Reference: “US Youth Soccer: Sports Done Right,” Douglas Abrams, Villanova Sports Journal, 2002