

# Sideline Etiquette

UVYSL asks that you please keep the following in mind when attending your child's game to ensure everyone has a positive experience!

## **Avoid 'coaching' from the sideline:**

In youth sports, parents often have a tendency to shout instructions to their players on the sidelines. This makes it especially difficult for the players because they have an inclination to listen to their parents, which may conflict with the coaches instructions.

Cheering is encouraged! Please leave the coaching to the coaches.

## **Do not criticize the referee:**

Our referees are most often still learning themselves. For the league, finding referees willing to put in the time to learn to referee is a challenge, and the difficulty is heightened when they face berating for their decisions. Please keep in mind this is not the World Cup, we are there to support your kids and help create a positive experience for everyone.

## **Focus on the benefits opposed to winning:**

Most parents focus far too much on the score rather than what their child is experiencing while playing sport. Despite everyone's natural desire to win, parents need to keep the bigger picture in mind. Youth sports is about player development and improvement. Losing is an important part of that process. Instead of asking your child, "Did you win?" ask, "Did you enjoy yourself?" Your child will remember more whether or not they enjoyed themselves than the outcome of the games.

## **Remain respectful to the opposing team/spectators:**

We are all a part of the same community. It is advised that you speak with your coach if you feel that something the opposing fans are doing is inappropriate. They can talk to their counterparts about the issue and try to resolve it. When at the game, do not criticize other parents or make negative comments about them. Your role should be to set an example for your child.

## **Save issues with the coach until the next day:**

Your child's coach might have made a decision you don't agree with, such as how much your child played. You should take some time to consider this before confronting your child's coach in front of your child's team. Please remember UVYSL coaches are volunteers. They are paying the same registration fees for their child to play, and are volunteering their time on top of that.

If you have feedback for the coach, please go home, talk to your family about it, and follow up with the coach the next day.