



# ARIZONA SPORTS COMPLEX NEWSLETTER

I love Soccer Saturday as each weekend I can see the bleachers at ASC filled with excited, cheering parents. Parents come early to warm up their child and get a good spot on the sidelines, so they can see the action from all angles. Once the whistle blows and the first ball is played, all I can think about is that I hope the kids only hear the positive cheers and team chants. Encouraging energy that serve to motivate each player on the team. Don't get me wrong, for the most part... I would say most parents are great sideline fans who support all the athletes regardless of skill. However, I still see a few parents who still do not truly embrace the spirit of youth sports.

Now that we are in our third week of Session 2, it is important to remind parents that our coaches are spending time organizing practices, working on game day strategies, along with other behind the scene tasks. Speaking for myself as a coach, I have always enjoyed all the soccer related and management responsibilities in this role. What does weigh on my heart as a coach and now as a director, are some of the negative comments I hear as I walk the sidelines of many soccer games each week.

I would like us all to get on the same page to create a positive and encouraging soccer atmosphere at ASC for all the kids. So, I created a list of sideline Do's and Do Not's:



## Do's:

- ⚽ Do make it a point to cheer for the effort each player is generating on the field. It does not matter if our young soccer players cannot execute plays or techniques. What does matter is that the athlete tried. The score should not be the most important aspect of the game. Improvements in individual and team play must be celebrated.
- ⚽ Do reinforce to your child that the coach is like a teacher. Each player must display the highest level of respect and must listen to the coach at all times.
- ⚽ Do watch your child as they interact with their coach. If the child is not listening or is talking when the coach is trying to instruct, be sure to explain to your soccer player the importance of paying attention.
- ⚽ Do watch your player's contact with teammates. Pay attention to the words they are using to communicate to their teammates. Spend time observing how they interact with their team on the field and on the bench. If your soccer player can be a better teammate, give them some ideas on how to have positive sport talk on and off the field.

## Do Not's:

- ⚽ Do not coach from the sideline. Allow the coaches who have been granted the authority to teach, to instruct and run the team. If you truly want to become part of the positive culture, then throw your hat in the ring and sign up to volunteer next session.
- ⚽ Do not approach the bench or playing area during a game (unless in an emergency or at the coach's request). We need to honor the coaching space that is the teaching area for our coaches. Parents should not come over to the bench to provide any coaching advice; this is the role of the coach without exception.
- ⚽ Do not speak negatively about the coach, officials, or opponents. Parents need to understand that youth sport is filled with mistakes from players to coaches to officials. We need to be open-minded and keep any negative comments about any plays or any persons involved in the game to ourselves. Coaches need parents on the sidelines that support the overall spirit of the game versus parents who may fill a young person's mind with counteractive thoughts about soccer.



I love the energy we have at ASC with our Youth Soccer Program as it has always been such a positive, high energy setting for me. Coming from such a competitive framework of high level club and collegiate soccer it has been refreshing to work with our youngest players to develop them into passionate soccer players. Parents play a major role in the development of soccer players. What we say and how we act as parents does make an impact on the player and on the player's relationships with coaches, officials, and opponents. I have always believed as the greatest rule of thumb when we watch our children play is to just cheer loud and proud.

We also want to take a moment to congratulate last week's Character Card Winners! Great Job to all the players!

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| ⚽ J.Trif U8 United Coach Shanda     | ⚽ S.Knight U12 Hull City Coach Cassidy |
| ⚽ L.Matache U8 Fire Coach Andrew    | ⚽ K.Gillman U12 Sheffied Coach Ryan    |
| ⚽ W.Fay U10 Levante Coach Ethan D   | ⚽ A. Gillman U14 Empoli Coach Ryan     |
| ⚽ T.Cottrel U10 Celta Coach Cassidy |  |

In closing I leave you with one last thought. I remember on game day at ASC I was approached by a player from the other team I was coaching against and asked me why I cheered when the other team scored. As my love for game has grown, it has become routine for me to celebrate all goals and all plays because all athletes need to experience success. My response to that player was that I love soccer and cheering on all players. I remember the smile on his face like it was yesterday and it fueled me to keep driving this culture of a creating a positive atmosphere. So, join me in making Youth Soccer a fun, positive, and encouraging environment for all players, coaches, officials and volunteers.

George Archuleta – ASC Director Youth Soccer