

# Parents of ESC Players – Best Practices

The Edina Soccer Club (ESC) is committed to the development of our players. And the parents of our players are critical in that process. ESC recommends the following Best Practices for our parents.

- *Communicate* – ESC wants our players and parents to communicate with the coaches for soccer-related concerns and praises. The team managers and ESC Age Group Directors should be engaged once the communication pathway between players, parents and coaches has been exhausted. Please get comfortable approaching our coaches.
- *No coaching from the sidelines* – Please honor the fact that our paid coaches have the soccer instruction under control at all times during games and practice. Your good intentions might just be fundamentally incorrect or untimely from an individual or team development standpoint. Please cheer, don't coach.
- *Timeliness* – Picking up your child on time is equally important to having them arrive on time. Please don't burden our busy coaches with the inconvenient, and inappropriate, role of "babysitting" your child after practice. Be on time.
- *Gracious in victory, gracious in defeat* – Let's be a community that "wins" well and "loses" even better.
- *Development takes precedence* – ESC values the development of our players over wins and losses, number of tournaments played, or league standings. Any soccer club can manufacture winning at the expense of development. ESC will always chase development first.
- *Honor the team mentality* – While ESC wants to respect your family decisions regarding vacations, other sports, and busy schedules, we want you as parents to remember that your child is playing a team sport. Your child's participation is essential to the team. Please consider the team when there is a choice in the matter.
- *Attend PACT* – The Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) strongly endorses Parents and Coaches Together (PACT) as a way to create a positive climate for youth soccer players and their families. Please attend at least one PACT program. Information about PACT can be found here: <http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/programs/pact.cfm>.
- *More is caught than is taught* – Please try to remember that ESC and MYSA are merely a platform for much greater development. While soccer development is important, all of us have the ability to help shape and develop these young men and women. While we will do everything we can to be a positive piece to that complex puzzle, please remember to maintain perspective. Cheer for all players - not just those on our teams. Encourage and thank the referees – they are usually doing their best. And try to demonstrate behavior that you would be proud of, no matter the circumstances.