Guidelines for the sidelines

- At all games spectators are to stand back at least one metre from the sideline. This allows the players to play the sidelines and everyone can see. No one (spectators or coaches) may stand behind either goal-line.
- Encourage parents to cheer for all the players. But be sure parents know the difference between cheering and the impassioned urging that sometimes takes place. Parents who try to instil "the will to win" by screaming at their miniature gladiators only make kids tense and confused about the goals of the sport.
- Discourage parents from coaching from sidelines. Coaching is not their job, and again, confuses the players.
- Point out that refs, especially young ones are doing a difficult and thankless job, are allowed to make mistakes and deserve the parents' support.
- Point out that criticism of the referee often leads to frustration and reprisal against the protesting team. If there is to be any discussions with the officials, it is coach's responsibility - never fans', parents or captains.
- Legitimate grievances will be better received if a team doesn't get a reputation as "complainers."
- Never allow a spectator or coach to abuse or malign a player, referee or other personnel. Ever.

Referees

Spectators should not disagree with, question or criticize the referee EVEN IF THE REFEREE MAKES A MISTAKE. Every year we lose many referees because they do not like the abusive behaviour that they receive from spectators during the season. Referees do make mistakes and your coach has a method for providing feedback to the club after the game if the referee needs constructive criticism. The coach or spectators should not object to a referees call or judgment on the field either during or after the game. This includes questioning a referee. The referee is not required to give your team a warning; he may merely report the conduct after the game. Due to the shortage of referees, sometimes you may not have a referee for your game and the coaches will act as referee and are entitled to the same respect. The KDSA is always searching for more referees. Please contact us if you are interested in helping by becoming a licensed referee.

Parents

The parents' role is one of support to the players and coaches. Parents should not engage in coaching from the sidelines, criticizing players, coaches or game officials, or trying to influence the makeup of the team at any time. All parents should endeavour to gain knowledge of the needs of the soccer player, the game of soccer, Laws of the Game, the Code of Conduct, the philosophy of developing youth players, and the policies of Soccer Australia, the KDSA and Northbridge Soccer Club.

Parents check list:
- Make fun and technical development your first priority.
- In competition someone always loses. If you win do it gracefully, not boastfully. If you lose, do not allow your child to become negative.
- Too much competition, too soon, can slow down a child's progress in skill development.
- Your child's coach will need all the support and help you can offer. Please make yourself available and volunteer all the time you can spare.
- Disagreements with the coach or officials do not belong on the public soccer field. Questions, input and positive suggestions should be voiced to the coach and/or club in an adult atmosphere. (The youth player should not be present.)
- The overall purpose is to enjoy the game and the opportunity to be with your child on the field of play
- Be knowledgeable of the game.
- Encourage fair play at home.
- Arrive on time with your child dressed in uniform, shin guards and shoes. Make sure your child has a water bottle available to him.
- Be supportive; i.e. make sure your child attends practice where they have a chance to learn; pick him/her up on time.
- Attend games.
- Be positive or quiet at the games.
- Be respectful; expect your own children to be respectful.
- Be calm and have good manners.
- Concentrate on praising other people's children during the game.
- Support the coach and referee's decisions.
- Become a referee.
- Play the game of soccer.
- Focus on good nutrition.
Ask your own children to describe his/her role, what new skills have been learned. Watch practices; focus on new strategies.

Find soccer videos and watch them with children.

Read newspaper articles about older player's successes; provide models for your own children.

Set a good example yourself, by showing good sportsmanship, and cheering positively. It will catch on!

Make sure your children know that--win or lose--you love them and are not disappointed with their performance.

Be realistic about your child's physical ability.

Help your child set realistic goals.

Emphasize improved performance, not winning. Positively reinforce improved skills.

Don't relive your own athletic past through your child. Control your own emotions at games and events. Don't yell at other players, coaches, or officials.

Be a cheerleader for your child and the other children on the team.

Respect your child's coaches. Communicate openly with them. If you disagree with their approach, discuss it with them.

Learn and respect the rules of soccer, and the rules of our association.

Show respect and courtesy to game officials, coaches, and players at all times.

Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.

Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team. Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.

Ensure that your child is at all games and practices at the required time or provide the coach with an appropriate excuse beforehand.

Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.

Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.

Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.

Players

Every player is expected to:

- Know and respect the rules of soccer, and abide by them at all times.
- Show respect and courtesy to officials and coaches by following their instructions and directions.
- Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during or after the game. Note: The team captain or his designate may address the officials during the game but only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.
- Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive or profane language, taunting or humiliating remarks, and/or gestures and physical assault upon another player at any time.
- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and display sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game. Be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- Follow all Association and Club rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
- Remember that soccer is a game, and treat players and coaches on other teams as opponents, not enemies.
- To ensure the appropriate equipment is brought to all practices and games.
- To perform up to potential but by the players own expectations / standards, not those of the adults.

To get to practice and games on time (explain to Mum and Dad).