

# LOSC “Sideline Etiquette”

The way our parents act on the sidelines is not only a reflection of you as a person, but the club and the team as a whole. We are trying to build the “model” club here at LOSC that will be looked upon as the standard for youth soccer in this area and eventually in the entire nation. Our success is very dependent on committed parents and you will see how these simple guidelines set our club apart from the rest. We are asking each parent to read our guidelines about sideline etiquette and work diligently to abide by them.

## Guidelines/Rules for Games and Practices Etiquette

### Practice

#### 1) ABSOLUTELY NO SIDELINE COACHING

- 2) Generally we prefer the parents not to be on or near the training area. If you are a coach and you want to observe, make arrangements with the coach. Parents or relatives in training areas can be a distraction to the players.
- 3) Watch and enjoy, but as a silent observer. Let the coach and the players have their time together to work on what needs to be done.

### Games

- 1) NO SIDELINE COACHING It undermines what the coach is trying to accomplish and takes away from the game. There is only one coach and he/she will decide what needs to be addressed during a game, because the coaches are looking for situations where they can teach the kids. Coaches find sideline coaching very disruptive to the learning process and disrespectful to them as a coach.
- 2) It is not acceptable if you hear yourself yelling from the sidelines: go Timmy go Timmy go, kick it Timmy kick it Timmy, get it Timmy get it Timmy, pass it Timmy pass it Timmy pass it Timmy; I think you get the idea. Geppetto was the last puppeteer to have his son on strings, so unless your son or daughter is named Pinocchio let him or her play on their own.
- 3) No yelling, arguing or being disrespectful to the referee or the linesman. You must remember these officials are doing their best and over time the mistakes will even themselves out. We don’t want our players to argue with the ref, so it would set a bad example if the parents were doing it. Outside of all that, we have never heard of a case where a parent has disputed a referee’s decision and convinced him to change his mind.
- 4) Do not criticize the players or the coach, even if you have best intentions at heart.
- 5) Try to control negative or derogatory actions like; throwing your hat, kicking the Gatorade container, pulling your hair out and so on. Actions speak louder than words sometimes, so keep that in mind.

### Model behavior

- 1) Cheering for good plays, good hustle, good effort, goals, saves, shots, tackles.... Ideally you should cheer for any player on the team that is deserving and not just your son/daughter. Even some acknowledgement for a great play by the opposing team would be a wonderful gesture and speak volumes about your soccer knowledge.
- 2) Basically you should be there for moral support and positive reinforcement. We feel your children will perform better under these conditions and the coach will be able to do his job more efficiently.

### Why do we need guidelines?

There are several reasons for the guidelines, some of which are described below:

- 1) Kids don’t like to be yelled at by their parent. This hold true at home or in front of their soccer teammates on the field. We know you are trying to help and have best intentions in mind, but kids find it embarrassing and it doesn’t help. The soccer field is one place they should be able to express themselves without involvement from their parents.
- 2) Players don’t really hear you at all.
- 3) Most importantly, it allows the parents to enjoy the game as a spectator and not a coach. Most coaches are gray for a reason, the stresses of coaching. Watch the game knowing that you have no control over what happens and just enjoy it as a spectator.

### Implementation

First and foremost you need to handle your own actions with regards to these simple guidelines. Take pride in your participation individually and take pride in how the team parents act as a whole. It is understandable to have moments of weakness and break a rule or two, but as a team of parents it is up to you to police these guidelines. Don’t involve the coach unless a problem persists and then the coach can step in and handle the situation. If more serious actions need be addressed the LOSC Director of Coaching will handle or defuse any problems as need be.

Player name \_\_\_\_\_ Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_