

@ SOMA Hoops – Players Play. Coaches Coach. Referees Ref. Supporters Support.

## Tips for Being the Ultimate SOMA Hoops Supporter

### How to be the best supporter:

1. Be present. Put those phones down.

2. Cheer the effort, not the result.

“Way to hustle!” “Keep working hard!” “Great idea!”

3. Let the coaches coach.

Supporting should not include instructions (“Get open” “Shoot it!” “Pass to Jane”)

4. Model positive interactions with referees.

Our Referees are SOMA kids who are learning too. This program would not be possible without them. Shouting out or questioning calls is not acceptable.



Smile & Thumbs Up >  
Shouting Instructions

### When you leave the gym:

1. One simple phrase to use after every game:

“I love watching you play”

2. Let your player drive the conversation.

If they want to talk about the game, great! Ask what they enjoyed about the game. What went well? What could have gone better? What do you want to practice to get better?

If they want to talk about something other than basketball, great! They just played 60–75 minutes of basketball. No need to spend any more time talking about it if they don't want to. When it comes up later in the day/week, use the questions above to get them talking.

3. Be specific and keep it positive

“You made some great passes out there” “Wow, that hustle play when you...”  
“That rebound you went after in the corner...”

4. Never Ever Criticize.

The coaches. The other players. The other team. The other parents. The referees. Every person involved in SOMA Hoops is one of our neighbors. Let's keep our community positive and supportive.

**95%**

of kids decide to  
quit their sport on  
the car ride home.

**<1%**

of kids play  
competitive sports  
beyond HS.