

Dear Coaches,

This has been one our best seasons ever, so I just want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Without it none of these kids would be playing right now. Please give yourselves a great big pat on the back. I hope you had as much fun coaching as the kids had playing. If you did, please remember that registration for our Spring season starts in February. You will be able to keep the same kids you have now (as long as they register). I hope to see you in the spring!

Stephanie Wright
Coach Administrator



What's inside

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Information so you can finish your season without problems.

Pictures: Pictures should be handed out to you 2 to 3 weeks after they were taken. If you have not received them by the last game they will be given to you with your trophies.

Player Evaluation Forms Must be turned in before you can receive your trophies. *Also all forms turned in by Nov. 6 will receive popcorn for their team.*

Equipment and Uniform turn-in: Turn-in is Nov.19, 2005 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the complex.. *SEE PAGE 3 for more information.*

End Of Season Team Party: Please try to have a team party. You will need to plan on having this after you have received your trophies on Nov 19th. A few common party ideas are ice or roller skating, Chuck E. Cheese's, pizza party, or bowling. This is a great time to celebrate all you've accomplished during the season.

Coach vs. Ref Game: Nov. 19 at 11:00am at the complex. Coaches, Assistant coaches, Referees and other approved volunteers can play. Please bring shin guards. Also if you do get hurt, AYSO volunteer insurance will not cover any injuries (so don't get hurt). Coaches wear white shirts and refs wear black.

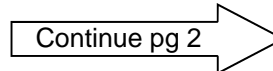
Are you coaching or directing?

by Coach Steve Bender

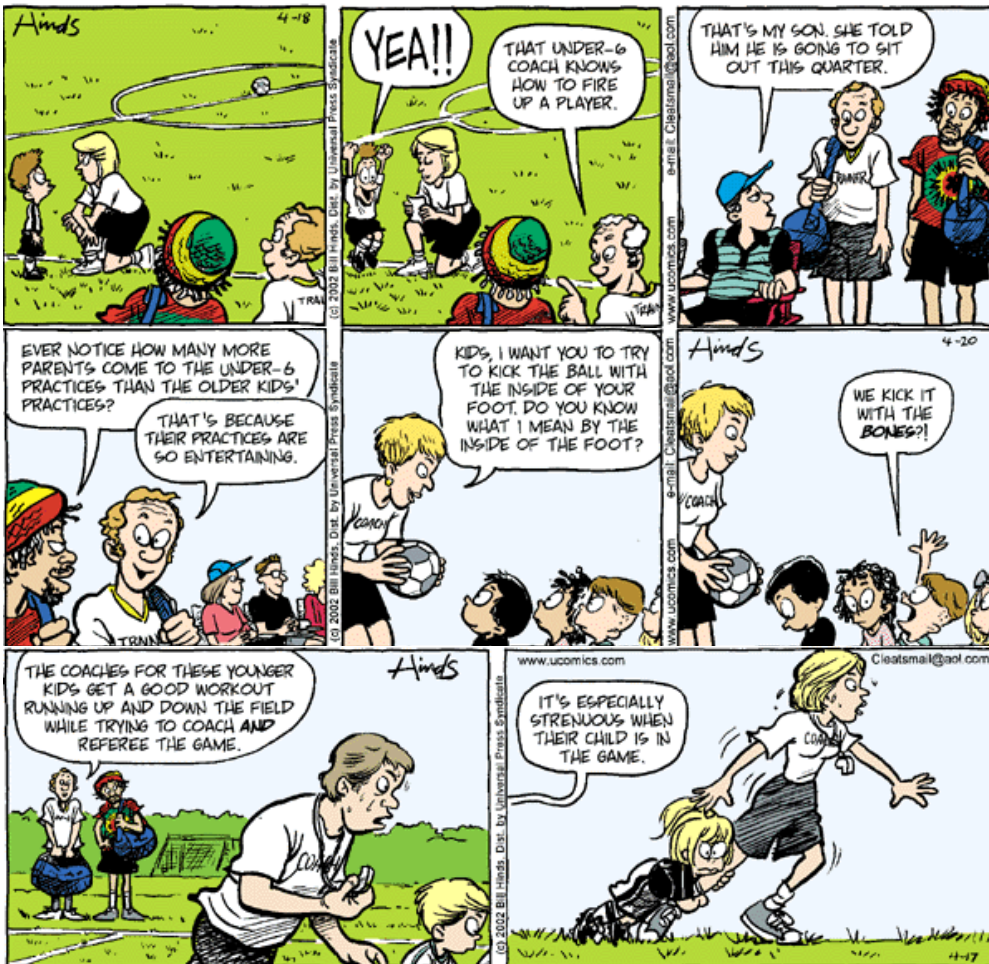
Are you a Coach...or a Director?

Pass the ball! Go down the line!! Spread out!!! SHOOT!!!! AUGGGHHHH!

Have you ever been to a youth soccer match and not heard cries like that? The time has come that we stop and think about this question: What do the players hear? While parents and coaches are constantly yelling out instructions, correction, criticism and praise, do our young players actually hear what we are yelling at them?



Comics Just For U-6 Coaches!!!!



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Some coaches believe that every word they scream is vital to the outcome of the game and the players who pay attention to them will succeed. Others bemoan the fact that the players never seem to hear what they are saying. Still others don't really pay much attention at all to a player's response. Like the Energizer Bunny, they just keep yelling and yelling and yelling....

Other coaches have parents who insist on doing the same thing. They constantly give instructions to their child-and others-about how they should play. Frequently, their suggestions are completely counter to what the coach would like for them to do.

It is my opinion that "coach" isn't the appropriate word to describe their behavior. They are directors. It's really no different than movies and theater. If you saw Dustin Hoffman in Rainman, you were impressed by his ability to play the part of an autistic savant. Hoffman was so successful because he had a coach work with him one-on-one to perfect his skills. But when he walked on the set, he was under the control of the director. When the cameras roll, no one does anything except what the director wants them to do. If it doesn't go right, they do it again. In the theater, the same sorts of corrections take place during the rehearsal period. But when the curtain goes up, the director shuts up. At most performers off stage are given a word or two of encouragement. But those on stage are on their own. Could you imagine trying to watch a performance with the director constantly yelling to the cast to orchestrate their every move? Yet we allow sideline screamers to go on and on week after week. They are not coaches, fine tuning individual skills and teaching game tactics. Rather, they are like noisome directors, attempting to control every aspect of the game from a touchline vantage point.

I welcome enthusiastic and loud cheers for what has happened and what is happening. But-not for what will happen. I prefer to let the players decide how to respond to each given situation, based on how I have coached them. Off-field direction should be limited to short warnings such as "Man on!" or "spead out".

Control it...good, good job! You've got space dribble up the line, use the space. Watch her, she's attacking...go around-around her...NO!!! Not that side!! You'll lose it! Oh, nice job getting around her. Push up, push up, Jane is open...pass to Jane, pass to...pass! Pass! PASS! You've got to pass sooner! Now, run back you're on defense now-they've got the ball. Next time, listen to me and pass when I tell you to!

What do players hear? Young players are often so focused on the moment that they simply don't hear the directions from the sideline. Even when they do what they are asked, they are usually just making the right choice, not doing it because the coach said so. Even were I

to shout their name until they looked right at me, ask them to do something, and get their acknowledgement, I know that I would soon be watching them process my instructions like a Dis-poz-all while continuing play their own way.

So how do we, as coaches, learn to coach, and not direct? There are several things which can help you alter the way you coach:

- **Cheer a lot!**
- **Coach on the bench, not from it.**
- **Teach players to make decisions for themselves.**
- **Teach players to talk to each other.**
- **Set clear rules for parents.**
- **Finally, if all else fails....** Take a roll of duct tape to every game.

As every man knows, duct tape can fix any problem, including this one. However, just make sure you remembered to shave before the game.

More information on Equipment and Uniform Turn-in

Equipment, uniforms and player evaluations all need to be turned in to AYSO before we will award trophies to the coach.

Uniforms: have each player put the complete uniform (jersey, shorts and socks) in a large zip lock bag or Wal-Mart bag. Put their name on the bag. If they return to play in the spring, they will receive their same uniform from the fall.

What to do and not to do.

Do: After your last game, have a meeting at the fields to collect uniforms. You can have a parent vs. players game, or scrimmage another team.

DO NOT : Tell your parents to come to the complex on Nov. 19 and give us the uniform.

DO: Pass out all trophies to your players. If they don't attend your end of season party, do what ever it takes to get that trophy to your player. Don't blame the parents if you still have it next year.

CAN NOT : Receive trophies before Nov. 19th

Players that are missing items from their uniforms will not receive trophies until

A) Registration for spring 2006 has been paid(\$40.00)

B) Replacement of original uniform has been paid

C) Extra socks or shorts are in storage for free replacement

If you are missing items please contact your Division Coordinator before Nov. 19 so we can handle this. We would like your player to receive their trophy with the rest of their team.

Uniforms are not for sale. If parents want to purchase a uniform visit. www.scoresports.com

All trophies that AYSO holds due to missing uniforms will be stored until the first registration of Spring 2006.