



Welcome to another season of Highland Soccer! We hope that you and your child find this season enjoyable and productive. In an effort to ensure that all participants remember the reasons we are all involved in this activity, we are recommending that you keep the following ten golden rules in mind as you watch your child play.

1. **This sport is supposed to be fun!** To keep it that way, please don't force your child to participate if they truly don't want to. Practices and games that are fun for children have the potential to instill a life-long love of the sport.
2. **It is more important to emphasize skill development, practice, good sportsmanship and enjoyment of the game than it is to worry about who won.** Be a good role model for your child by applauding good playing by children on BOTH teams.
3. **Remember to make your child feel good about doing their best,** regardless of the score or outcome of the game. Encouragement produces better results than criticism.
4. **Don't embarrass yourself or your child** by screaming at them to do better or play harder during the game. Let the coaches provide that motivation while they're on the field.
5. **Remember this is your child's game,** you child's sport and your child's opportunity to shine and develop confidence in them selves. Don't project your own need to win or compete onto your child, or compare them and their performance against others. Each child develops at his/her own rates and needs to be given the opportunity to do so.
6. **Be positive about the coaches and the program.** Your child's coach is a hard-working volunteer who is giving up his/her own time so that your child can benefit. Be supportive and appreciative of their time and efforts.
7. **Acknowledge your child's fears** (if they have any) about playing on a team or in front of many people. Playing a new sport can be stressful for young children.
8. **Don't criticize the officials.** The referees out on the field are young kids in our community. They are volunteering their time and are doing their best to ensure a fair game as well as to instruct the children in the rules of the game.
9. **Come to as many games as you can** to show your support of your child and their participation on the team. Having you there to see them means almost as much to them as being out there.
10. **Don't expect your child to be the next sports superstar.** Most children who take the time to practice and play on teams like this weill develop good solid skills that they will appreciate and be proud of throughout their lives. Their chances of becoming world famous are slim, however, so it is enough to simply enjoy their participation now and let them know that you're proud of their efforts.

Highland Soccer Club Philosophy: The club believes that the focus of youth soccer should be on having fun. A player should be taught that giving an honest effort, regardless of the outcome, is much more important than winning. The recreation program should provide all players and equal opportunity to develop good soccer skills in an environment that promotes good sportsmanship and a love for the game. To achieve this goal, the Club will make its best effort to create balanced teams with all players having equal playing time.