



WELCOME COACHES

A coach is many things to many different people. A coach is a teacher, a mentor, a role model and sometimes even a friend. Most of all a coach must be positive! This is the #1 expectation for all coaches at AZSC.

Soccer is a game! All coaches must remember this is a leisure activity for the kids and this is not your opportunity to take yourself back to your glory years and win one for “the Gipper”. Our focus at AZSC is for all kids to have FUN. Thus making this an enjoyable experience for everyone involved (child, parent and coach). Soccer is in competition with all other family leisure activities and can easily be replaced. We want to create an environment that everyone will want to continue.

Understanding soccer is a breeze when compared to understanding the children who are playing it. Each age division brings unique problems including emotional and physical development that will vary a great deal within your team. While this variety poses a challenge to the coach there is one factor what will bring all the children together, they all want to have fun. They also want to be children. Too often the coach sees them as an extension of his vision and the kids become puppets, not enjoying the game. The time spent at practice and at the games is part of their childhood. Some adults forget this and their expectations take the fun out of the experience.

1. Referees – especially young and inexperienced ones – are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and instigating – or even accepting – your own players’ overly aggressive behavior.
2. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players’ enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you’re overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

The philosophy of the Arizona Soccer Club as a recreational league is summarized in two words, FUN and DEVELOPMENT.

FUN: The number one reason to play is to have fun. The number one reason not to play is that it’s not fun. To promote fun we will encourage equal participation in practice and games, matching athletes’ ability to their challenges, and by helping to set performance goals rather than outcome goals.



DEVELOPMENT: We strive to help young people develop in three ways:

- **Physically** by learning the skills of soccer improving physical fitness, and developing good health habits.
- **Psychologically** by developing self-esteem and confidence through success experiences.
- **Socially** by learning to cooperate in a competitive context with appropriate standards of sportsmanship.

For the prospective coach, who likely has never played the sport, the task of organizing a team, understanding the rules, running effective and enjoyable practices, and making a positive experience of the Saturday game, is another matter. But just as your child player will develop soccer skills over time, the parent coach can learn age-appropriate and effective coaching techniques over time as well. AZSC would like to be the first to thank you for your commitment to youth soccer. We are very excited for another successful season!

Please join us in our mission:

The Arizona Soccer Club is dedicated to establishing traditions that inspire a sense of **PRIDE:**

Passion -- An attitude that promotes excitement, enjoyment and the love of the game

Respect -- A spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork that promotes healthy competition

Integrity -- Instill values that promote strength of character

Discipline -- Develop technical skills and tactical understanding enabling players to reach their highest potential

Excellence -- Equip coaches, volunteers, players and parents with exceptional instruction, resources and customer service to create a positive experience for competitive and recreational soccer

Congratulations! You, as a youth soccer coach, are about to enjoy a rare privilege – becoming a surrogate parent of 7 to 14 kids who are looking to have fun and learn the game of soccer.

Thank you,

Mike Briseno
AZSC – Club President

Tara Koleski
AZSC – Director of Coaching

AZSC – Board of Directors