

Being a Parent Coach for the Tosa Kickers

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In the Tosa Kickers we embrace the Community Club and the Parent Coach. Unfortunately, many chastise the Parent/Coach model as unprofessional or fraught with endemic issues. Done properly, we believe it not only works but also has advantages:

- Volunteer Parent Coaches save families money which means more kids can afford to play
- Parent Coaches are community based with an interest in the health and growth of our kids
- Wauwatosa has a rich soccer history with parents who played the game as youth, high school and college players

The Parent Coach – Your personal advantage

- You get to spend valuable time with your child
- You get to make a difference in your community

Being a Coach – some simple advice

- Communicate – Set expectations for players and parents – for example
 - Emailing, calling or texting if their child is going to be late or missing
 - Arriving on time
 - Bringing proper equipment to practice (ball, cleats, water, shin guards)
 - Parents should ask questions at appropriate times (not right after the game etc...)
 - Making sure parents do not yell at referee's, opposing players, or coach from the sidelines
- Remember that everyone wants the best for their own child and wants their kids to succeed
- Never make things personal with players or parents - Always phrase things so they are not personal
- Set an example of professionalism with other Coaches, Referees and players

Coaching your own Child – I talked to many people about coaching their own child and received great information. Most said they loved the experience. It made their relationship with their child stronger. The most important information I received and read was the following:

- At practice and games your child is a player and you are the coach – you and your child need to know that this is the relationship. Your job is to teach them the game of soccer.
- After practice and games, you are their parent. You should not talk to them about their game or performance etc... Be their parent and tell them the phrase that kids, when surveyed, liked to hear the most, "I love to watch you play".