



Parent Behaviour – The Do's and Don'ts

This letter is intended for you the parents. Please take some time to read and gain more knowledge on how you should conduct yourself around players in soccer. We also want to provide you the reasons why it is important to do so, this way you will have a better understanding of the positive and negative effects certain actions can have on the players.

Although some of these points below may seem obvious it's important to understand the psychology of the youngest players. We want to increase; confidence, self-esteem & love for the game. This can be done by applauding; effort, work rate, attempts to try new skills, sharing, socializing. The main thing is to keep in perspective the age & ability of the players at these ages! Expectations must be lowered e.g. just joining in and participating is amazing, listening and trying is fantastic. As well as prioritizing enjoyment and effort rather than winning and scoring. Remember this is a team game and most of these young players won't understand how to share, so applauding them by passing or making a tackle that resulted in someone else scoring is massively important. It's not about the final result or who scored the most goals, it's about taking part, working hard, socially interacting with others and gaining skills that will be transferable to life as soccer.

Don'ts:

1. DO NOT - Use abusive language (swear words)
2. DO NOT - Use an Aggressive tone or shout
3. DO NOT - Enter the field of play whilst the game is being played
4. DO NOT - Sit too close to the field of play
5. DO NOT - Shout out commands or give instructions to the players (e.g. pass, shoot! Etc.)
6. DO NOT – Panic if your child goes down hurt, the coach will ensure the player is ok and safe to play
7. DO NOT – Get frustrated if your child/player doesn't score or perform skills. They are very young and still learning.
8. DO NOT – Encourage your child/player to purposely cheat or aim to injure/hurt other players. This kind of behaviour will not be tolerated at MI Thunder FC and will result in disciplinary action.

Do's:

1. DO – Arrive on time
2. DO – Cheer for all players on the team
3. DO – Applaud all goals
4. DO – Give positive reinforcement (e.g. Go on, Good job, Keep going, Well Done)
5. DO – Encourage all players to Try/Work their hardest. That's all that counts at this stage in their development. Skill and goals will come later.
6. DO – Make sure your child/player is well equipped (e.g. Cleats, shin guards, shorts, socks etc.)
7. DO – Enjoy watching your child/player play soccer and have fun!
8. DO – Smile! It's contagious, when you smile your child will

Thank you for your time and reading this document. It means a lot to us here at MI Thunder FC, the coaches and your children, Thank you.