



# COACHING THE BASICS

**Never forget - This is about the kids having fun kicking a ball with friends!**

*As a coach, in order of importance, you are:*

- Teaching kids good sportsmanship towards all.
- Teaching players individual and team soccer skills.
- Competing to win.



## Key Points to remember

- Model the behavior you want both your players and parents to follow.
- Win or lose, insist that your players, your parents, and all involved, demonstrate good sportsmanship at the end of a match.
- Be on time, Be prepared and Look the part for practices and games – wear your AYSO badge proudly!
- Communicate! Communicate! – practice times, game schedules, locations, and brief game summaries that highlight the positives.
- Never yell at or belittle a player! Keep it Positive, Instructional, and Encouraging.
- Normalize errors – mistakes are stepping stones to development, making them feel bad about them reverses that.



## Key Points to remember (cont.)

- NEVER leave a player alone after a practice or a game.
- Let your players explore different positions on the pitch and teach the entire game, including throw-ins, set plays and goal kicks.
- Teach the kids to play the entire pitch (i.e.: a throw-in doesn't have to be down the touchline, the ball can be played forwards and backwards, switching play opens things up, etc.)



## Use AYSO coaching tools

- Your age group AYSO coaching manual will give you age-appropriate activities and practices for your players.
- Contact your Region's coach mentors and use their experience to help you be a better coach.
- Attend Area/Region Coach Ed events, use The AYSO Coaching Manual platform and learn from your Region's professional coaching partners.

## Additional Tips

- Take a referee class – it will make you a better coach.
- Get a parent to volunteer as a team parent to assist you with team notifications, gatherings, snacks, etc.



## As a coach, measure how you did by two yardsticks:

*(not team record)*

1. Do your players want to come back and play next season?
2. Did your team, as individuals and as a team, improve during the season?

