



Parent Guidelines

The mission of the **West Virginia Development League (WVDL)** is to foster the growth and development of youth soccer players in West Virginia by providing a safe, inclusive and competitive environment that promotes sportsmanship, skill development and a love for the game. As parents, you play a crucial role in creating a positive and supportive environment for our young athletes during their soccer games.

The following are some guidelines for appropriate sideline behavior to ensure that your children have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience on the soccer field.

Encourage and Support ONLY: Your primary role as parents is to encourage and support the children, regardless of the outcome of the game. Applaud their efforts, show enthusiasm and celebrate their achievements. Remember that the journey and personal growth are just as important as the final score.

Respect Players, Coaches, Opponents and Officials: Treat all players, coaches, opponents and game officials with respect and courtesy. Refrain from making negative comments, criticizing decisions or questioning the judgment of coaches and referees. Not only is this a development league for young players, but it is also a development league for new referees. The kids will follow your example so please model good sportsmanship.

Refrain from Coaching from the Sidelines: Allow the coach to instruct your child on how to play. Research shows that failure to follow this guideline will impact your child in the following way:

- Confuses the player due to conflicting instruction.
- Takes away from opportunities for them to make their own decisions, which is important for their development.
- Lessens the enjoyment of the game for the child. This is their game to play, not yours.

Ensure a Clean Environment: Keep the sidelines clean by appropriately disposing of trash and ensuring the area is left in the same condition as when you arrived.

All participating clubs have agreed on the above parent guidelines. Failure to follow any of the above guidelines may result in your suspension from the league.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can create a supportive and enjoyable atmosphere for our young athletes to flourish. Let us work together to foster a culture of respect, sportsmanship and positive engagement within our soccer community.