

Dear Parents and Players,

Soccer season has begun. We will be sending quite a few emails from time to time as well as updating our website on a regular basis. www.sbasoccer.org. If you have questions, email is usually the quickest way to get a response.

Coaches have many decisions to make every year; it's part of the profession. Some decisions are more difficult to make than others. Two of those hard decisions are cutting players, which we've done, and managing playing time. That will be discussed later. Our first priority is the team--our first loyalty is to the program. Whether you agree with our decisions or not, we want you to know that we will do our best to remain loyal to the girls as a group, and that our decisions are for a reason and not arbitrary. Players shedding tears, getting attitudes, or being extremely nice won't help us make decisions. Parental pressure doesn't help either. Will we play favorites? Yes and no. All of you are our favorites in that we care about you as people and as players. But it's very difficult to get the refs to let us start 32 girls. Sometimes players and parents misunderstand the "favorites" concept. Yes we do favor some players over others. We favor those whose skills are more developed. We favor those who show courage and heart in the face of adversity. We favor those who work hard every minute, every day. We favor those who are unselfish. We favor those who play the game as we direct...you don't have to agree with us, just do what we say. We favor those who sacrifice so others can be successful. We favor players with a cooperative attitude. We don't favor whiners, excuse makers, eyeball-rollers, or players with their own agenda. So, yes, we play favorites. But no, we don't play favorites. We don't favor one player over another for personal reasons. And we don't play favorites because their parents are involved in the school, or fund raising, or the concession stand.

We won't always agree. But we can assure you that we will do our best while coaching you. We can promise you that we will put the team first above every individual. We ask you to do the same. If we all do, we may just get to experience that wonderful thing called "team".

Seniors...your time has come to lead. From this point forward we will expect you to set an example on the field and off. We have a bunch of freshmen coming in...We expect you to welcome them into the family and make them comfortable.

Time is short and at a premium. We won't have a lot of time for goofing off and being distracted. We'll have fun, but we need a strong work ethic, great attitudes, and undivided attention during our practices.

We have worked hard so far because we are hungry to move up the food chain. Being satisfied will only mean disappointment in September/October. We must continue to work toward being the best...as individuals and as a team. How you handle success is even more important than how you handle failure.

Don't forget your stuff and do not be late...irresponsibility is no excuse. The real world demands you to be reliable, we do too. We are working so we can win. You don't want to work? Then you don't want to win. You are on the wrong team. There are some church league teams that will welcome you.

Lastly, everyone needs to be aware of a related issue. Playing time is never guaranteed on any team. You can earn playing time in practice where you will be competing daily. We will coach to win. This is high school soccer and not church/rec. league. Making Varsity or JV doesn't mean you will play in games. We don't play everyone equally. However many minutes you get, you need to appreciate them.

We would like to request one final thing. Hold your daughter accountable. Don't bail her out or make excuses for her when things aren't going well, or she isn't playing well. Help us to help her take responsibility. Players who take ownership and shoulder responsibility may become good players, but they will definitely become great people! Thank you!!