

## WUSC Class 3 Parent Communication – 9/16/08

From Andrew Ziemer, WUSC Player Development Director

Now that the season is underway, I wanted to touch base and remind everyone some key points in regards to the WUSC Philosophy.

1. **FUN** – The game needs to be FUN for the kids. We will try to take the pressure off the children and create the most natural learning environment possible. Most of us grew up playing “Street Soccer, Sandlot Baseball, Pick-up Basketball”, and the children today do not play like we did in the past. We all have to remember that the game is for the kids not for us. We are there to serve the children.
2. **Sportsmanship / Respect** – All WUSC players, coaches and parents will be expected to have good sportsmanship for each other, the opponent, the referee and above all the GAME.
3. **100% effort in trainings and games** – Our #1 goal in training sessions is for the players to train as close to the game level as possible. If we achieve this, WUSC will improve immensely. 100% effort = success.
4. **Coaching during games** – We ask that parents do not coach their children during games. The coaching from the coaches will even be limited, as we try to teach the children to “Read the Game” and “Think for themselves and each other”. The communication should be happening between each other on the field.
5. **Development over Winning** – Together with the WUSC Coaches, we have a plan for each age group. Our ultimate goal is to help the players reach their individual goals. We use the team as a vehicle to achieve this. Our aim is to help players reach their full potential in the 4 main areas of the game (TIPS - Technique, Insight, Personality and Speed).

Sometimes, we will sacrifice the result (short term) in order to reach our goals (long term). Some examples of how the WUSC Class 3 Program will achieve this are :

- Build up from the back – we want to pass the ball up the field, starting with the goalkeeper and defenders. This is risky since if we lose the ball the opponent will be close to our goal.
- Rotating positions – We feel that in the U10-14 ages , players should get a complete education of soccer and play in many positions. This will often hurt the team as players are placed into new positions, but in the long term will benefit the players in reaching their full potential.
- Play in the WUSC Way – with more emphasis on attack, we will play with less defenders and give up more goals. WUSC also want to play on the half of the opponent which leaves a lot of space behind our defense. If the

opponent plays a typical “Kick and Run“ game and has athletic players in the attack, then this is risky and could affect the result.

- Defend 1 against 1 – in the younger ages we want to teach the WUSC players to defend 1 versus 1. Rather than play with a deep sweeper behind the defense, we choose to use this player in the Midfield and force our players into many difficult situations.
6. **Way of playing** – attractive, passing , attacking game (see article # 1 by Andrew Ziemer)
  7. **Realistic expectations / be your child’s biggest fan** – I have developed a very age specific curriculum which all WUSC coaches are required to follow. It is a step by step approach. Many times parents expect things of their children that are not possible. Please measure your child’s success on effort, improvement and pleasure. Leave the coaching to the WUSC Staff . Ask your children questions and let them tell you what they are experiencing versus you giving them your opinion.
  8. **Reach the next level** – Our goal is to help players get to the next level of play. This means WYSL Recreation players to Class 3 or 1. Class 3 players to Sonoma County Alliance (Class 1). If the children are not motivated to get to the next level, it is very hard to reach their full potential.
  9. **Play more on their own / watch soccer live or on TV** – Our goal at WUSC is to create a culture in which our players are playing without coaches. When the children are bringing their ball everywhere with them, or getting together on their own to play “Street Soccer”, then this proves that we are helping them develop a “True Love for the Game”.
  10. **PLEASE STAY OFF THE REFEREES !!!!!** – Some of the best referees, are younger children who have played the game. The problem is that when they make a mistake and get yelled at, then they drop out. Furthermore, WUSC does not want to be a club which is whining from the sidelines, and games are NEVER won or lost by the referee.
  11. **Feedback** – If at anytime you have feedback which can help make the WUSC Program better in any way, feel free to e-mail me at [andrew@ziemer.com](mailto:andrew@ziemer.com).