

# CLUB EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

*To Facilitate Player Development*



*“Every kid around the world who plays soccer wants to be Pele.  
I have a great responsibility to show them not just how to be like a soccer player,  
but how to be like a man.”*

***Pele***

Soccer is a player’s game and in Maroons Soccer Club, our mission is to deliver an inspiring soccer learning experience that creates a culture of intelligent, skilled & confident soccer players who play the beautiful game, beautifully.

Critical to this experience is the parent(s) who is each player’s biggest fan and most consistent role model for behavior. It is important that the parent recognize the profound impact that their support, presence, actions, and behaviors have on their child and their child’s experience in a competitive soccer program. Through your positive participation, you will help ensure that your child has fun, develops, and grows in a healthy competitive environment.

To facilitate your child’s learning experience, the Club operates under certain expectations that each parent should support and give every intention to uphold.

## OVERALL EXPECTATIONS:

- I understand that as a parent, I have a profound impact on my child and his/her enjoyment of sports; I will manage my actions and behaviors to encourage and motivate my child.
- I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills and I will encourage my child to keep sport in its proper perspective.
- I will use positive encouragement to fill my child’s emotional tank, as I understand that players do best when they are encouraged, confident, and emotionally healthy.
- I understand that soccer is a player’s game and that Maroons is focused on developing my child as a player, and that ***Player Development***, not winning, will be the primary focus.
- I will be a role model for good sportsmanship by treating others with respect, and being worthy of being treated with respect, including not acting in an unsportsmanlike manner towards my child, other players, coaches, officials, and other spectators.
- I will monitor my child's stress level at home and ensure that s/he is handling stress effectively from his/her various life activities.
- I will work to teach and develop good habits that contribute to becoming a healthy athlete— education, exercise, proper eating and hydration habits, and appropriate sleep.
- I will try and redefine what it means to be a "Winner" in my conversations with my child and focus on effort, attitude, continuous improvement, bouncing back from mistakes, etc. as detailed in ***Maroons Soccer Club Philosophy of Winning***.

- I will try and become a student of the game by watching soccer on TV, attending high level games, watching skill videos online, reviewing the *Laws of the Game*, etc. I will encourage my child to participate with me so that together we can better understand the game of soccer.
- I will emphasize to my child that practice leads to skill development and how developing skill is an important part of player development. I will encourage my child to touch a ball outside of training and matches and encourage them to participate in Club activities, like *Free-Play Football Fridays*, *Futsal*, and *Juggling Elite*.
- I will respect decisions made by the coaches, for I know that they are focused on advancing my child towards his/her maximum potential.
- I will ask the coach for my child's player assessment and feedback at midyear – keeping the discussion positive and focusing on how my child can continue to improve.
- I will connect with the Coach if I have any questions or concerns about my child's experience. However, I will not approach the coach with concerns or complaints until at least 24 hours after a match or incident. If I am not comfortable approaching my child's coach, I will discuss with the Club president.
- I will report any injuries to my child's coach.
- I will read, understand, and comply with league guidelines and policies and the *Maroons Soccer Club Fields Policy*, especially in relation to goal safety.
- I will try and let the coach and team manager know if my child is unable to participate in a team activity and I will try and respond in a timely manner to team communications.
- I will strive to get my child to trainings and matches on time and to pick him/her up on time.
- I will respect the officials and their role, and accept the referee's decisions. I realize that the referee will make mistakes and I will set a good example by not addressing them.
- I will focus on encouraging my child during matches and I will resist the temptation to “coach” my child during the match; I will not yell “boot it”, “pass”, “shoot”, or similar comments as these are considered coaching. I will refrain from cheering the big kick as this is in contrary to the *Maroons Style of Play* that focuses on teaching possession-style soccer.
- I will cheer for great plays and efforts from my child, his/her teammates, as well as the opposition as this shows an appreciation for the game.
- I realize that players will make a lot of mistakes in a match (pro players make 35-50 mistakes in a match) and that the focus should be on how well the player responds to his/her mistake.
- I understand that the Club expects my child to play various positions (goalie, back, midfield, forward) as this aids the player in learning and understanding the game.
- I will read the article *13 Steps to Being a Winning Parent* and try to put these into action.
- I will always remember—Coaches coach, players play, referees ref, and parents cheer!

As a Parent with a player in Maroons Soccer Club, I support and give every intention to uphold these **CLUB EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS TO FACILITATE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**.