



Coaching to Develop Philosophy Parents' Guide

Saline FC operates under a “Coach to Develop Philosophy.” Saline FC coaches use this method to ensure that we:

- Recognize that winning is not the only measure of success as teams can lose and still play well.
- Take priority to develop a variety of individual technical skills by allowing players to express themselves and try out new things without feeling like they have let the team down if they are unsuccessful.
- Recognize and reward players for demonstrating good use of skills, being a good team player and showing a willingness to practice and improve.

It isn't that winning isn't important, but it is not the most valid indications of a player's and a team's “success.” You, as a soccer parent, have an important role to play. The following are suggestions on how you can help your child have fun, improve and get the most out of their Saline FC soccer experience:

- Avoid shouting out instructions to your child. Coaches are working to a newly designed, structured development plan and are using games to practice and improve your player's soccer skills. Shouting out will only give your child mixed messages and confuse them.
- Try asking your child “how did you play” as opposed to “did you win.” Solicit answers from your child and have them tell you what they thought they did well and not so well.
- Reward your child for good performances and good use of skills. You will be reinforcing to your child that they played well regardless of the game score.
- Encourage your child to practice. Saline FC offers extra development programs through our Jr. Academy program and summer camp programs. You can get information and register for these programs on the Saline FC website.
- Support your coach and the team when you see evidence that they are actively following the curriculum and the “Coaching to Develop Philosophy.”

We expect that children to enjoy playing and improve their skills under this development plan. If players are able to perform the skills effectively it makes for a more enjoyable experience. Remember that the most important things for youth players is that they enjoy every aspect of the soccer experience.