

Dear Coaches and Parents,

I am dismayed by the fact that as President of the Ukiah Valley Youth Soccer League, I am having to write to each one of you describing inappropriate behavior by teams, players, parents and coaches. The whole intent of youth soccer is to bring the sport to as many children as possible in a safe, fun and good spirited atmosphere. This year the soccer board has received numerous complaints regarding poor behavior by coaches and parents that range from cussing at the referees, yelling at calls made by the referees, parents threatening coaches, parents cussing at other parents and such. This is not what was intended to happen on the soccer fields in front of our children. If we hope to have good teamwork and a healthy attitude towards sports then we must be aware that how we conduct ourselves as adults. Our children watch how we behave and if we scream and yell because we did not like the call of the referee then our children will think that this is appropriate behavior. This is not good sportsmanship.

I have instructed the referees that if the game gets out of hand with poor behavior from the parents and or the coaches then the game will be cancelled. The coaches are responsible for their parent's behavior. The parents cannot be on the same side of the fields as the coach nor should they be coaching from the side line. The referee is the person in control of the game and should be listened to since he/she is the one who has gone through training. If the behavior does not stop the league may even have to resort to disbanding teams since good sportsmanship at the adult level appears to be non-existent.

I am sorry to say that this is the first year that we have not been able to manage tempers and personalities among the coaches and parents without a letter to all. To those of you coaches and parents who bring a positive attitude to the field thank you, your teams will have a wonderful time playing the game and the players will remember their time with you as a fun time.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Gonzalez

UVYSL President