



SARNIA FC



LETTER TO PARENTS AT THE U6, U7 and U-8 LEVELS

TO: Parents of U-6, U7 and U-8 players

FROM: Sarnia F.C.

RE: KICKING IS NOT SOCCER - Program Design and Parents' Role

The purpose of this letter is to outline our special program, specifically designed for the U-6, U7 and U-8 players. The program is called: "KICKING IS NOT SOCCER".

We would like to explain to you the skill priorities and program objectives for your child, the program's format, and your role within the program.

Skill Priorities

Everyone knows that the game of soccer has a number of basic skills, or *techniques*, that players have to learn, such as dribbling, receiving passes, making passes, shooting and heading. Players also have to learn to make good decisions during the game, such as when to dribble, when to pass, and to whom to pass to.

The first technique that children should learn is **dribbling**. The ability to dribble is absolutely critical since dribbling is the foundation skill and preparation for all the other fundamental techniques of soccer.

Program Objectives

The technical objective of the U-6/U-8 program is to teach players to dribble. Dribbling is the foundation skill for all the other skills and must be taught first. Aimless kicking will be discouraged by the coaches, as it develops bad habits and has no long-term benefits.



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Program format

This program is designed around a player centered model. It is designed to increase the technical ability of the player as well as the decision making ability

You role

We ask that you:

1. Refrain from coaching. Leave the coaching to the coach.
2. Do not tell the players to 'kick it' during the games or the practices.
3. Feel free to cheer and applaud. This is NOT Silent Weekend! But no negative comments and absolutely no coaching. And, please, applaud good plays by the other team also.
4. Exhibit good sportsmanship and make the other team feel welcome.

Please refer to the KICKING IS NOT SOCCER – PROGRAM RATIONALE handout for more detailed information about our program. Feel free to speak to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Paul Burke
Club Head Coach
Sarnia F.C.
"WE ARE FC"