

FOR THE KIDS

What a great opportunity to serve the community of MSA as Coaching Director. As we enter a new season I want to stress the fact that MSA and in fact all soccer for young people, is just that, **for young people**. As parents and coaches we can have grandiose ideas for our kids. I have four children and I think “wouldn’t it be great if one became a professional soccer player”. But every time I am watching them play I remind myself that this thing called soccer is *about them* and *for them*. I hope you will join me in helping make ‘our kids’ experience everything it ought to be.

THE RIGHT KIND OF COACH AND PARENT

As a coach, teach and instruct and correct and cheer and win and lose and have fun. As a parent, watch and cheer and encourage and sympathize and help. When we drive home from the game, rather than talk about the score or what you liked or didn’t like about the coach, talk about the good shot, great save, super move, awesome defensive play, and excellent attitude (for both teams!)

WINNING

Am I against winning? Of course not! But I believe winning is the by-product of good instruction, developing team unity, having a good strategy and sometimes just being lucky enough to have the best players. I have also learned that we will all win some and lose some and through it all we need to find the fun in playing the game.

So have fun this fall! Be the coach and parent that you would want if you were six or eight or ten or twelve.

Greg Gidman
Coaching Director