

SPECTATORS

#PlayYourPart

Creating a united grassroots football environment
which delivers football opportunity For All



As a spectator, you can play your part to ensure that everyone has a positive experience on and off the pitch.

Consider your interactions with the players, coaches and match officials.



- Always keep interactions positive – provide praise and encouragement to all
- Mistakes will happen – remember that the players, referees and coaches are all trying their best
- Acknowledge that the coach is likely to be a volunteer and is giving up their free time
- You can support by: helping the coach with setting up, communicating important information to others, or volunteering to officiate
- Do you know what the players are working on? Is there a specific focus for that week?
- Do you know the laws of the game (relevant to the format being played)?
- **BE THE REASON THAT A PLAYER STAYS IN THE GAME!**



- Keep control of your emotions – your words, actions and behaviours will impact enjoyment of the game
- Players leave the game if the environment is negative, hostile, or intimidating
- Manage your expectations – the game should and does look very different to the professional game
- Avoid coaching the players – this is the role of the coach - your communications could be conflicting
- Don't challenge referee decisions, regardless of whether or not you agree
- Negativity is unhelpful for everyone
- **DON'T BE THE REASON WHY A PLAYER LEAVES THE GAME!**

Be Respectful to all involved

The FA's Respect Programme has a host of resources that can help you.

www.essexfa.com/about/respect

For more information or support please contact your local Football Development Officer in the first instance:

www.essexfa.com/about/contact-us

www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/matchday-environment