

Yuba Sutter Youth Soccer League

Why Coach

I'll bet some of you got into coaching the same way I did: a phone call one evening from a league official, desperate for a parent to step up because without a coach they might not be able to let these kids play.

I was beyond nervous. I had some experience with baseball and basketball but I knew next to nothing about soccer. It didn't exist where I grew up. I didn't know proper technique to dribble or pass. At that time soccer wasn't on TV and there wasn't a pro team nearby. It turned out OK. Our first year wasn't great but there were great players who worked hard, learned what I could teach and in turn taught me so much about technical skills and working with young athletes.

I used to say I was lucky to have such a great group, but in 30 years of coaching I've been privileged to be around team after team of great young players. The Yuba/Sutter/Colusa area is filled with children who are fun, exciting and a real joy to coach. They want to learn and they want to play. Soccer is an extraordinary game for young athletes – it's about moving, being active and every player will get chances to touch the ball and impact the game. It's physically demanding and incredibly fun. The players will learn, and teach us in return.

Being on a sideline is (well, almost) as fun as playing. Seeing players grow their skills and having a great time playing the game is an amazing experience. If you can enjoy when your son or daughter has a bunch of friends over at once, you can manage practices. If you like being around kids, you can coach. If it's fun for you when your son or daughter has a group of friends over and you like soccer, you can coach. You can learn the technical; it's group leadership that can be the challenge, and that can be learned as well. There are resources we will share throughout the season to help you.

Coach a team. Trust me, it's more rewarding than you can imagine.