

Hibiscus Coast AFC

'Developing Creative Decision-Making Football Players'

Positive Sidelines Concept

We strongly believe that in order to develop creative players of the future, coaches and parents need to give players the freedom to make their own decisions. Of course during training sessions, coaches coach them how to make better decisions and players can then improve their decision-making through games and activities that are repeated over time. It is during match day games that **coaches and parents shouldn't shout instructions while the ball is rolling**. Occasionally it is useful for a coach to call out with some questions or instructions while there is a break in play, but you should try your best to never do so while the ball is rolling and in play.

It is frustrating to hear coaches and parents yelling, "Pass, pass" or "shoot, shoot" or "find space, stop bunching." If we just think about what is happening when a young player hears these instructions. Are they taking the time to assess the situation? Are they realising why passing is a better option than dribbling? Have they taken in the position of the goalkeeper before they shoot? Do they even know what 'space' is, how to create 'space' for themselves to receive the ball and how to make 'space' for their teammates to take advantage of?

We whole-heartedly encourage the parents to shout encouragement, and praise, as that makes for an energised atmosphere, but as long as the calls don't offer the players instruction on what they should do.

BE AN EXPERT PARENT AFTER THE MATCH
by @Inner_Drive
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What Not to Say	What to Say
Did you win?	Did you have fun?
You played rubbish	How did you play?
Why did you do that?	What did you learn?
You're so talented	What would you do differently next week?
False praise	Did you try your hardest?
You were so much better than X	I'm proud of you
It doesn't matter	I love you