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O.L.Q.P. FALCONS

Soccer Club



Coaches and Managers Notes From Mark Giacoppo -10 March 2008

Welcome and Thank You To all Coaches, Co-coaches and Managers

I would like to thank all people who have offered their assistance with team or club level support this year. Every level of support is gratefully appreciated so please accept my sincere thanks and gratitude for your support.

Association and Club Principals

As your support effectively puts you in a position of “office” within the club then your conduct throughout the year will be viewed and reacted upon by numerous people including other parents of the club, kids in our club, other kids and parents from other clubs plus office bearers of our association and the general public. We all therefore carry a very significant responsibility to project an attitude of fairness and fun in sport.

It is very important that all people associated with our club understand that the club sport is for the children to enjoy. They are not to be screamed at for poor performance – such actions are termed sports rage.

SPORTS RAGE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THE CLUB. PEOPLE WHO DO GET INVOLVED WITH OR INCITE SPORTS RAGE WILL BE ASKED TO END THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH OUR CLUB.

Please ensure that as a person of office in the club that you understand the “Code of Conduct” agreement that our club has with the Association we play in. A copy is available on the associations website. A few highlights in regard to the topic of sports rage :

- Referee’s shall not be abused at all whether they are official or unofficial
- Everyone shall act in a manner that does not bring disrepute to the association

Club and Association Principals That We all Abide By and are Expected to Promote

Our club is here for the kids to enjoy soccer in a fun environment with friends. They are not here to become international soccer stars. We support the spirit of competitive attitude whilst ensuring a fair and balanced approach to all kids playing the game (not just your own team).

Our Club is run by the parents and guardians of the kids in the club. It is not the sole responsibility of the committee to run the club. Every parent will at some stage be asked to support the clubs events and functions or day to day needs. It would be great to see parents being proactive in this support, so if you see something needs to be done then have a go at doing it. Please don’t just sit back and hope that someone else may do it. This includes field set up and pack up, canteen, ground official, committee level roles.

Communication

The communication system this year is a development on past years.

Therefore this year the primary method of communication from the committee to all team members is via the managers. The managers are expected to attend committee meetings which are held once a month. We therefore communicate what is happening to you, here in these meetings.

The manager is then responsible to feed on the information to their team at training or at the games.

We therefore ask club members to call their team manager for information and not directly call the committee members. In this way we avoid 180 calls each weekend to ask where is my game?

My phone number is on the website so I do get many calls, hopefully if the system works this year we can reduce the number of calls to something manageable.

Apart from the above primary method of communication, we will aim to keep the website up to date so members can go their instead of calling you.

As per last year, managers will also be asked to print the weekly newsletter to distribute to their teams. This is normally available on Thursday afternoons so managers can print it on Friday and distribute them at the Saturday games.

Canteen Operation

We will run the canteen similarly to the last few years where each team runs the canteen for a day in the year. However in the past the team have been a bit slack in turning up on time to start the BBQ and cleaning up at the end of the day. This year Tony Elias will oversee the teams preparations for their day at the canteen. He will not actually prepare your teams, you can do that in 10 minutes at training. But Tony may call you ahead of the day to remind you that it is coming up and please ensure your team is organised. The canteen starts at 8:30am with someone from your team turning up ready to cook the BBQ. The canteen closes after the last official game on the day (Normally around 12 noon).

Ground Official

Our association requires us to have a ground official on duty at all times while games are being played. We have decided to fulfil this role by asking the most senior team playing on our ground to appoint a ground official. This should be a parent, but if not then the coach or manager may take it on. If a parent will not accept the role then the role will automatically fall to the coach. We therefore encourage the parents in the team to support their kids and coach and we encourage the coach to seek the support of all parents.

If a Junior team is not playing on the grounds (U8 and above) then the mini team on Field A will be responsible for the Ground Official Role.

If you are the only mini team at our grounds and playing on field B then you are responsible for that role.

The ground official basically is there to remind people of the code of conduct that we agree to abide by with our association. All members of all clubs in our association agree to abide by this code.

In cases where calm may not be restored simply with a calm request, then the Ground Official is asked to seek assistance from the committee. My phone number will be put on a copy of the code of conduct to be kept in the canteen.

Cleanup and Field Marking in Preparation For the New Season

On the 30th March we will mark the fields (possibly earlier). This takes a little bit of time in measuring out the fields and running the line marker around them. On this day (or the day before when the kids are in the professional coaching clinics) I also want some help to clean up the club house. The store room is a mess and the council has agreed to assist in removing the old fridges. If we can get help to clean up the store rooms then it will make the season a bit better for all. If you are available to help clean up please note your support to Mark.

Field Setup and Packup Responsibilities

A final note that the first team to play on a field in the morning is required to setup the field. If your team is late in dressing the field then you are likely to have your game time cut short. Please ensure you leave ample time in the morning to set up the field if you are scheduled as the first game. A list of 1st game teams will be put on the website when we receive the season draw.

Also if you are the last team (ie there is no one ready to run on the field behind you or warming up on the sideline) then you must pack up the field equipment to the store room. Please do it neatly so that next Saturday the person who next has to setup doesn't have a tangled mess of nets to contend with.

Regards

Mark Giacoppo

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