

# **PARENTS' HANDOUT**

**TO:** Parents of U5, U6, U7, and U8 players

**FROM:** HCSA Director of Coaching

**RE: KICKING IS NOT A SOCCER SKILL**  
Program Design and Parents' Role

The purpose of this letter is to outline our special program, specifically designed for the U5 & U6 and U7 & U8 players. The program is called: "KICKING IS NOT A SOCCER SKILL". We would like to explain to you the skill priorities and program objectives for your child, the program's format, and your role within the program.

## **Skill Priorities**

The technical objective of the U5 thru U8 program is to teach players to dribble. Dribbling is the foundation skill for all the other skills and must be taught first. Aimless kicking will be discouraged by the coaches, as it develops bad habits and has no long-term benefits.

## **Field Layout**

You will be asked to sit about 10 yards away from the sidelines during games in an area designated as the Parent's Area. The objective here is to give the players a sense of freedom, encourage the players to think for themselves and wean them out of their dependency on the adults.

## **We ask that you:**

- 1) Refrain from coaching. Leave the coaching to the coach.
- 2) Do not tell the players to 'kick it' during the games or the practices.
- 3) Avoid encroaching beyond the parent's designated area until the game is terminated.
- 4) Feel free to cheer and applaud. This is NOT Silent Weekend! But no negative comments and absolutely no coaching. And, please, applaud good plays by the other team too.
- 5) Exhibit good sportsmanship and make the other team feel welcome.

Please refer to our website, [www.hcsa.org](http://www.hcsa.org), for a more detailed rationale of this program and all the programs that we offer at HCSA. Feel free to speak to me if you have any questions or concerns. I hope your child and you have a nice season.