

Touchline Management (mini soccer)

As an extra to the RESPECT programme, and as a tool to help you manage your players and touchline environment on match days, please note this brief overview of ideas for touchline management.

We fully understand that all pitch/s and grounds are subject to different factors pertaining to size, restrictions and usage. However, please view these ideas as 'guides' to help you only.

Separating the parents from the coaching / management staff creates an environment that can alleviate some pressure on both the staff and players. The match referee can also distinguish from parent / official behaviour and input.

It is recommended that wherever parents / spectators stand, a taped / roped barrier is erected 2 metres from the pitch. If this is not possible then cones will suffice.

Please refer to Handout 2, which features a touchline area constructed in this way.

Technical Area

A technical area works well in the senior game as it separates the management from spectators and outside factors. The players are therefore more comfortable and young players can receive instructions in a controlled environment.

Water bottles, first aid kit, inhalers and other medical equipment are also closer to hand and easily identified. Within the 'coned' and loose technical area, designate a section for this important equipment. The area can also help stop over exuberant coaches 'patrolling' corner flag to corner flag, for example.

Players

Lay bibs on the floor as seating areas for the squad members not starting. Young players will soon learn this is where they should sit. Whilst warming up they can easily wear their own bib for identification. At most youth matches / tournaments players are seen kicking a ball around whilst not playing. There is no issue with this, as they have plenty of energy to burn! However, in a busy environment, giving instructions or making a change can be difficult for the manager. If there is enough space, why not indicate with cones a 'switch on' area for the players to warm up in.

Once the players are on the pitch they have to try and keep the ball within the markings of the pitch, so why not designate your players an area to play / pass / dribble the ball? This will hone the skill levels, warm them up and

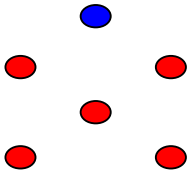
control where they are. Once they have visited the 'switch on' area, they can be seated on their individual bibs for further instruction.

Visual aids

White boards and drawings are good aids to help children understand what you want them to do. If young players grasp the concept of different positions you can experiment by letting them try different areas of the field.

Cones

One good way to demonstrate this is to lay out cones in a formation, get the players to sit behind the cones to best understand where you wish them to play! As the players progress, more advanced situations can be demonstrated in this way.



For more details on the above ideas, please contact Darren Moss at County Headquarters on 01603 704050 or email darren.moss@NorfolkFA.com.