

# SOCCER TIPS FOR EVERYONE

By Head Coach Mark Boswell



## **Coach:**

As all coaches know, most players just want to play soccer and practice drills are sometimes regarded as a “fill in” before the end of a practice scrimmage. Coaches should make every effort to ensure that the players approach all drills as if they were real match situations. Cones and bollards are opposing players, field lines are for in and out of play, passes should be weighted and directed accurately. Players should be constantly moving with a ball on their feet. If the coach can inject enough enthusiasm into the players prior to the drill, it makes for a more productive practice.

## **Players:**

Soccer is a TEAM sport - there would be no so-called superstars if the players within the same team did not play well together. The whole game of soccer revolves around the ability of the players to pass or be in an open position to be passed to. If you believe that you are in an open position and should be passed to, the best way to attract your team mate is to call his or her name. If you are the player in possession of the ball it is your responsibility to LOOK for players in open positions. This is the tricky part. To look up whilst controlling the ball as well as keeping the ball away from opposing players is not easy, but if timed correctly, which takes a lot of practice, you will find that you get a lot more time with the ball as well as your team keeping possession for longer periods of the game. The more you pass the better the team can perform.

## **Referees:**

Remember that a player has the right to ask for an explanation when a decision is made by the referee. As long as the player is polite and has a genuine grievance, the referee should clarify his actions. Of course, this does not mean EVERY decision.

## **Spectators:**

Any praise is good praise. Remember we are not all natural athletes or players and any action that shows an understanding of the game, whether it is a skill or a law of soccer, should be positively acknowledged.

*For more information on the Milton Soccer Academy please visit  
[www.miltonsoccer.com](http://www.miltonsoccer.com) or call 905.8780209*