

“The Beautiful Game.” *Fact or Fiction?*

Encouragement and praise, along with good coaching and a safe environment, provide the healthy atmosphere in which players, young and old, can develop both individually and as valuable members of a team.

Progress and success also happens by understanding the rules of the game, having a sense of fair play and applying mutual respect for all those involved in the game on a Saturday or Sunday.

Playing sport competitively with controlled aggression, enthusiasm and a “never say die” attitude is what every sportsman should aspire to but within a framework of tolerance and respect. Respect for each other, the opposition, the manager and the much maligned referee!

Constructive criticism is necessary at the right time, the right place and with the right tone of voice. Managers, and managers only, are best placed to administer this role during the game. It is unfair and confusing to bombard players with conflicting instructions. Harsh and unsympathetic criticism, especially to younger players, ruins their enjoyment and often leads to demoralisation and underachievement.

Managers, parents and spectators are responsible and instrumental in ensuring good behaviour is insisted upon, both on and off the field of play.

Inappropriate criticism, swearing, abuse of players, referees, the opposition, other spectators and managers is not acceptable and should not be tolerated in an environment where young children and other members of the public can be embarrassed or offended.

In life, “the feel good factor” for us all, stems from happiness, security, honesty, hard work, respect and the knowledge of right and wrong. This applies equally to all sporting activities!

A Plea to conclude:

Please continue to help all our players experience “the beautiful game” in an enjoyable and successful arena where rugged competition walks hand in hand with sportsmanship and respect.

K. Thrower January 2018