



# LATE SEASON REMINDERS FROM COACH JOHN SAFT

*November 3, 2021*

SNSA Coaches,

As the season winds down and the Henderson Cup tournament approaches, I would like to share some observations and advice with our SNSA coaches

## **MINI KICKERS/U5-U6**

First, I would like to thank all the coaches, parents and players who participated in our Mini Kickers program this season. I believe having parents participate with the players was a positive addition to the skills training component – let us know what you think! I enjoyed watching our U5 & U6 players improve over the course of the season and play for the pure fun of the game. I believe that we are planting seeds at this age, and with practice serving as the water we will see everyone grow. Please continue to practice with your child during the off-season; we have lots of resources for training U4-U6 players on our [Coach Resources](#) page. Keep it simple- 5 to 15 minutes a night and you will be surprised at how much kids learn!

## **U7-U14 DIVISIONS**

We are approaching the end of the regular season and our Henderson Cup tournament! As we noted in prior communications, there is a nationwide shortage of youth sports referees, and this shortage has impacted SNSA's ability to get enough experienced adult referees for our U11-U14 games. We are competing for referees with club leagues & tournaments, and NAIA has also scheduled high school games on Saturdays this fall. Additionally, verbal abuse and harassment from parents and coaches is a major issue for retention, especially among our younger referees. Please remember that even for tournament where teams play for medals and everyone gets fired up, SNSA is a recreational league with a developmental mindset, and our Codes of Conduct are still in effect. Treat the younger referees like you would want your child to be treated, and the adult referees like you would want your spouse to be treated! They are human and make mistakes, but they do the best they can to call a fair game. Coaches can get a card if your spectators are out of control. You set the tone for your players and parents; if you stay in control and treat the referees with respect, they are likely to follow your lead.

As always if I can help you in any way, please text or email me; or if you see me at the fields stop by and say hello.

Thanks everyone, and I will see you on the field!

*Coach John*  
*702-612-6450*