

One concern often mentioned by players, referees, and administrators is “overcoaching”, a situation when the coach is always shouting directions to players. Parents contribute to the confusion as players try to hear parental advice and coaching advice simultaneously. This phenomenon is not unique to soccer but pervades all youth sports.

Patrick Demasco, a youth soccer coach, explained his interpretation of his role as both the parent and the coach by comparing the game to a music recital. “I tell my parents and players to use musical performances as an example. A music teacher works very hard at lessons, but sits back and enjoys the performance” advised Demasco.

That sounds like pretty good advice when you think about what it would be like to go to a recital or performance only to have the production contorted by screaming parents or teachers. We could make the games much easier for our kids if we learned to see their “performance” the way we would see their music recital.

Spring registration is open for Rapid City Youth Soccer League. You can register online, download forms from www.rcysl.com or pick up forms from sports stores. Registration forms were sent home with students just prior to the holiday break but who knows where those might be by now. Take a moment to file the registration now. Deadline for guaranteed placement on the same roster as your child was on in the fall is February 20. If you want to be moved to another team, indicate that on the forms.

Rushmore Soccer Club players are playing Monday nights in an indoor league as well as most weekend tournaments. The players will be ready for early spring outdoor competition if the club decides to participate in the Colorado or Arizona tournaments.

RCYSL's Challenge players are also playing indoors with an eye toward sharpening skills and keeping game fitness high prior to the March launch of outdoor soccer. The shorter but faster-paced indoor game is ideal for our colder climate and promotes an increased level of fitness in players who are not playing basketball. March is only 6 weeks away.