**What makes a team?**

Make this a positive experience for your team. Listed below are 5 key points to reflect on when analyzing your players. Take each characteristic into consideration. Each player can possess a different skill to benefit your team as a whole.

**Attitude:**  “Attitude is everything”. Kids look up to their coaches for guidance, be a positive role model. Think of ways to help bring the team together before a game. Whether it is a chant or a goofy drill; the smallest gesture can make the biggest impact on a child. Make the experience memorable.

**Technique/Skills:**  Kids like to practice what they are good at. Be sure to guide them to practice on the skills that need improving. Express the importance of practicing at home. The satisfaction of mastering a skill they have been struggling with can be a great way to also improve on the child’s self-confidence.

**Decision Making/Being a Team Player:** Learn the outcome of different decisions with in the game. What happens if I try to do it myself? What happens if I pass the ball to a team member? Make the kids take turns with the ball so everyone gets equal experience to improve personally and the team as a whole. Encourage the kids on the side lines to pay attention to the game; you can learn a lot from watching!

**Communication:** Educate your players to communicate on and off the field. Teach the players on the sidelines to give high fives and words of praise to the players on the field. Players on the field should also learn to talk to each other in situations when they need to field the ball. Tell your players what you expect of them. Set feasible goals for your team each week and meet them. Kids will get excited when you get excited, make it fun!

**Confidence:** Without confidence your team will not be able to perform the way you want to. Build your players to have self-confidence by giving positive praise. Encourage them to better themselves on a daily basis. Practicing all the skills listed above will not only increase the individual’s confidence but the TEAM confidence as well. Teach them to be proud of their accomplishments!