

# 2018 Spring Youth Soccer Motivational Patches

We hope that this soccer season provides your child with a basic knowledge and understanding of the game. In Recreational sports it is important to encourage and motivate players to have fun, to do their best, and to help build confidence and self-esteem during practice and in the games. Each individual player will learn about teamwork, bravery, leadership, following instructions, and will be encouraged to do their best to the best of their abilities. Many players come out of their quiet shell and we hope timid players will become braver while on the field of play. We also hope to give each player the opportunity to develop into a true leader. All of these qualities are the necessary building blocks or tools that can help them be successful in life. Each team/coach will be provided with 20 patches that should be distributed throughout the season to players. Every player on the team should be recognized for contributing/demonstrating positive characteristics throughout the season during practices or games.

Positive Reinforcement: All players at some point make a good pass, pay attention, help a teammate, etc. The patches give coaches the opportunity to recognize players doing a good job. The league is about developing players and having fun.

Below is our Patch Award System Key that describes each patch and how to earn them throughout the season.



Red/White

**Good Listener – Attention:** consistently listens and follows directions on & off field during practices & games.



Blue/White

**Coaches discretion:** choose a positive quality that you believe deserves recognition for a player on your team



Kelly Green/White

**Passing:** exceptional passing to teammates during games/practices



Gold Star\*\*

**Leadership:** This player believes in the Coaches and in the team. This player is respectful, listens to the Coaches, is nice to teammates, is a role model for other players and behaves in the way the Coach wishes all players behaved.



Blue Star

**Transformer** (most improved): in technical skill, hustle, listening etc.



Lightning Bolt -  
Yellow

**Workhorse // Energizer Bunny:** outstanding hustle and extra effort while playing in one's position



Happy Face

**Sportsmanship:** players shake hands, help opponents up, encouraging their own players, sincere congratulations to the other team during the end of game hand shake



D Patch

**Rock Solid Defense:** Any player can earn this patch, at any position. When we don't have the ball, we want good defense. Remember that "Good Defense" doesn't mean just chasing the ball. Players **MUST** play their positions and follow the Coach's instructions in order to win this patch. Good Defense requires good teamwork.



Red A

**Attitude:** bringing a positive attitude to games and practices



T-Patch

**Team player/spirit:** positive cheering throughout the game, not getting down on yourself when you make a mistake, "picking up" teammates when they make a mistake

## How to Iron On Patches

Children should not iron on the patches; use the iron only with an adult present.

1. To iron on the patches, first warm up the iron for 5 minutes (unless it is a rapid heat iron) on a medium (silk/wool) setting (or higher if possible without scorching the fabric). The iron must be hot enough to melt the glue.
2. For best results, use the iron to first heat the place where you are going to place the patch, so it is warm.
3. Then position the patch where you want it to permanently be with the glue side against the fabric.
4. Press the iron firmly to the patch and hold for 10 seconds as a test. It usually takes 20-25 seconds to fully melt the glue, but irons vary, so be careful and don't burn or melt the fabric. If the glue isn't fully melted or if you handle the patch while the patch is still warm, the patch may start to come off the fabric. If this happens, iron it on again. To prevent burning of the polyester, or patches and to get better adhesion: First, position the patch in the desired location and apply the iron to melt the glue. Then turn the material inside out and iron through the material against the underside of the patch. This allows you to see areas where the glue was not fully contacting with the material, get better heating and overall a better application. The patches should stay on much better.
5. You **MUST** let the Patch set for a few minutes until it is cool before you handle it so the glue can dry.

Patches can be ironed on most fabrics. They are often ironed on jersey sleeves, backs or fronts. The only problem you might experience is if you have a textured fabric that the glue can't adhere to. In those cases or if you don't want them to be permanent, you can put a few stitches in each one, or use fabric glue to hold it on. Patches probably won't stay on stretchy material such as socks or head bands unless you sew them on with a thread.