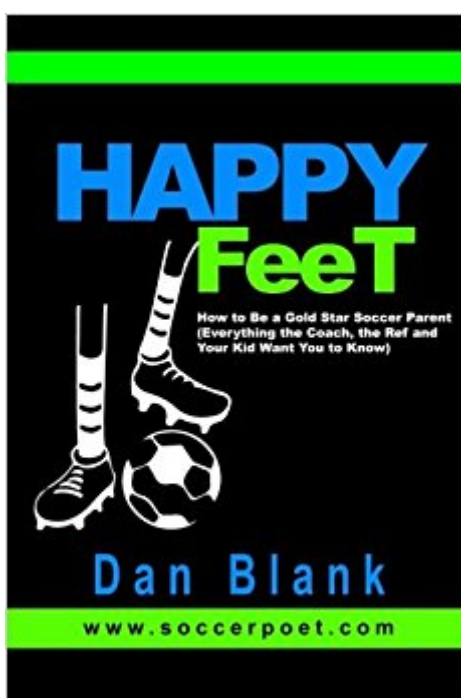


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# HAPPY FEET - How To Be A Gold Star Soccer Parent: (Everything The Coach, The Ref And Your Kid Want You To Know)



## Synopsis

HAPPY FEET is the ultimate resource for soccer parents. Written by best-selling author, Dan Blank, it will give you a better understanding of the game, its rules and terminology. This remarkable book includes links to seven free videos that help explain soccer's more mysterious concepts such as offside, the advantage rule and systems of play. By the end of Section 1, parents with no soccer background will have a working vocabulary of this strange sport and an understanding of all its moving pieces. More importantly, HAPPY FEET details the most common mistakes parents make in dealing with coaches, referees and their own children. It is a practical guide to situations that every soccer parent will eventually face. HAPPY FEET is not a collection of sideline horror stories. Written by a coach with more than 20 years of experience, HAPPY FEET offers a wealth of advice presented in a conversational and humorous tone. It is the definitive handbook for parents that want the best possible experience for their soccer playing children. HAPPY FEET will help you understand the most effective path for growing your child's love for the game while also helping you steer clear of the behaviors that cause children to fall out of love with team sports. Discover the easiest way to have a positive relationship with your coach, how to effectively deal with playing-time issues, and learn how to talk with your child before and after a game. Plus much, much more. 75% of youth soccer players quit by the age of 13. HAPPY FEET was written to combat this staggering defection rate by arming parents with everything they need to know to nurture and grow their children's love for the game so that soccer fields from coast to coast are alive and well with the sounds of HAPPY FEET.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I picked up this book and finished it in a few hours. I couldn't put it down! That might sound strange for this type of book, but Dan Blank has presented this valuable material in such an entertaining way that it is extremely fun to read. This book might save your child's soccer career just as it is beginning. The goal of this book is to prevent us soccer parents from becoming FUN-SUCKERS, as nearly eight out of ten players quit soccer by the age of thirteen...mainly due to their parents' behavior (no matter how well-intentioned it may be). The book teaches you how to talk to your child's coach, how to talk to your player (especially in the car ride home after the game), how to handle playing-time issues, etc...it even teaches you more about the game of soccer, from the basics to the more complex, with links to youtube videos included, to help you get more enjoyment out of your child's sport. You owe it to your soccer-loving child to read this book!

As a soccer coach and soccer parent, I can't recommend this book highly enough. Every soccer parent should read this book. One of the many problems with youth soccer is that most parents don't really understand the game. Sure, the game is simple enough on the surface, but many parents aren't familiar with the rules, strategies, or teaching methods of the game. This book helps parents understand these details, and in turn, will help them enjoy the game more, which will allow their sons and daughters to have more fun and develop their game. A little knowledge can go a long way in making the game more enjoyable for parents, players and coaches.

This book contains real and useful advice to help out with your son's/daughter's soccer career. As a U-11 parent, we forget that they are just kids sometimes and that they are playing for fun. Yeah, they may talk about becoming a pro someday, but first they are still kids playing a game they love and I don't want to mess that up. I instantly saw things that I was on track to mess things up with my son and took corrective measures but not in time before being called to task by him for having sour looks on our faces during his last match where he and his team had a major off day. I got to that part in the book after the game. I apologized to him for not supporting him and his team as well as I should have that game and promised to do better. We had a long talk about things in his soccer world as I understood better where he was coming from. He has a good coach and that part has never been a problem but I do understand what he is trying to accomplish much better. This book is a bargain for what all you will get out of it. Should be required reading for all soccer parents!

I love Dan Blank's writing style. He's been cracking me up and bringing me to tears for years on his Soccer Poet blog. I enjoyed reading his first book, Soccer IQ, but that's more for older kids. As a

youth soccer coach (U8 this year - Go Firecrackers!!), I spend most of my time trying to keep the kids from wandering away from the field and from spitting on/hugging each other. When I saw that Dan had written this book, I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. With the season starting soon, I was already in soccer mode and I tore through it in a day and a half. Coach Blank drives home the message that coaching soccer at the younger levels is about keeping kids interested, trying to help them learn the game, but above all, it's about making them better human beings. Building better humans beings is hard work and sometimes that goal is diametrically opposed to the goal of winning. It's way harder to get across the message of being a good sport than it is to point the fast kid at the goal and tell him to score. As a coach, I want my kids to end up as better people more than I want them to win. As a parent, I want to see my little super star play the whole game and score every goal. This book makes many arguments about how we, as parents, can help the coach do his job and help him make our little rock star players into better people, better teammates and ultimately better soccer players. As an administrator in our league, I've seen first hand how individual parent squabbles, individual agendas, general pettiness and an overblown emphasis on winning at the cost of integrity and honesty can shift the focus from the true goal of youth athletics -- building athletes. Happy Feet does a wonderful job of bringing the focus back where it belongs. I'm pretty sure that I'm a better parent for reading it. I'm definitely inspired as a coach to earn the trust and respect of my soccer parents. And to be honest, it's just a good read for anyone involved in soccer. I laughed a bunch and even got a little teary-eyed at a few parts - remembering my coaches, my teammates and my parents.

This is the best soccer book for parents of youth soccer players I've ever read. I've purchased copies for my players parents and literally had the in stitches the next time I saw them as they describe their behaviors, how it pertains to their child, and how much this book helped them see the big picture. "The Car Ride Home" chapter is priceless. Consider reading Dan's other books including Possession, Soccer IQ1 and 2, etc. They are all excellent.

I haven't finished this book yet but I loved that it has links to YouTube to explain what you're reading. Had it just been me reading off the org I'd still be lost. The video links are a real plus.

This book is most helpful! Not only did I learn a great deal about the sport, but I learned the value of being a good parent. I recommend this for parents of all kids (whether they play sports or not)! I know that I am a better Dad for reading this. I hope Dan Blank does one for basketball when he finds

some spare time!The Reverend Thaddaeus B. AllenRegional Minister for the Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) in West Virginia

Amazing resource for soccer parents. Gave me a better understanding of the game (since I have no knowledge of soccer!), the terms, how to encourage my child, and how to deal with coaches. Loved the helpful videos you get as well! For only \$10, it's been incredibly enlightening. Great job, coach Blank, appreciate the insights!

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