

GLOBAL SOCCER MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

SOCCER EDUCATION – “Leadership through Your Acts of Forgiveness”

What does your forgiveness look like when your players do it all wrong in practice, matches and off the field foolishness? So if our Father expects us to forgive others, what does healthy, biblical forgiveness look like?

There is a Four-Part process that you should know and live out when your players are dealing with pain brought upon by you or others.

1. **Recognize no one is perfect.** When we hate somebody, we tend to lose our perspective about that person. When we're filled with resentment and bitterness and hurt, we tend to dehumanize the offender. We treat them like a danger animal and we shoot to kill. We're all imperfect in an imperfect world.
2. **Relinquish your right to get even.** This is the heart of forgiveness. You might deserve to retaliate, but you must commit not to do so. It may not fair in your

standards, but it's healthy and better to love or say nothing than to shoot unkind words of criticisms. Be the leader/mentor/coach you should be. This isn't a one-time decision but a daily one that may even require moment-by-moment decisions, so be prepared to think rather than explode like a bomb.

- 3. Respond to the bad things with good word, kind jesters and give hope to your players.** This is how you know you've fully released someone from the wrong that has been committed against you. Humanly speaking, it's sometime impossible to respond to bad with good. You'll need the Father's help. You'll need the love of Jesus to fill you up. Why? Our Father's love doesn't keep track of wrongs.
- 4. Refocus on your Father's plan for your life and the lives of your players.** You stop focusing on the hurt and the player who hurt you or the team, because you do not like them and what they did. Instead, you refocus on the Father's purpose for your life, which is greater than any problem or pain you might be currently facing. As long as you continue to focus on

the player who you believe is hurting your program in some way, that player is controlling you. Think about it. They may not think that way but it happens because they live their lives more off the field than on the field and the off the field living we effect the on the field hurt they are inflicting. In fact, you can take it a step further. If you don't release your offender, you will begin to resemble your offender.