

Dealing with Parents

Being a YMCA Youth Sports Volunteer can be both exciting and rewarding. However, from time to time, you may experience difficulty with parents. Some may want their children to play more or they might question your judgment or calls as an official/coach. **This is normal, so don't feel that you are alone if this happens. PLEASE do not hesitate to call me with ANY problem / question that may arise during the season.**

Here are a few thoughts to remember when dealing with parents:

- Always listen to their ideas and feelings. Remember, they are interested and concerned because it is their child that is involved. Encourage parental involvement.
- **Express appreciation for their interest and concern.** This will make them more open and at ease with you.
- No one can please everyone so don't try.
- As a Coach, you need to make all parents aware of the ground rules. Have rules, regulations, your philosophy, practice dates and times, etc. printed on a sheet of paper you can pass out to all parents. Have a parent meeting at the first practice to discuss your operating procedures if necessary.
- Most importantly, **be fair.** If you treat all players equally you will gain respect.
- Be consistent! If you change a rule or philosophy during the season, you may be in for trouble. If you do change something, make sure the parents are informed as soon as possible.
- Don't discuss individual players with other parents.
- Ask parents not to criticize their child(ren) during a practice or game. Don't let your players be humiliated, even by their own parents
- Don't blame the players for their parents' actions, if negative. Try to maintain a fair attitude.

****Parents must accept the fact that umpires, coaches and league officials are volunteers and should not be subjected to criticism during games.****

Always remember that you will be dealing with all types of children and parents with different backgrounds and ideals. One of your main challenges as a YMCA Youth Sports Coach is to deal with these differences in a **positive manner** so the team's season will be an exciting and enjoyable experience for all.

Values...Where and how are they instilled in children?

As an inclusive organization, the YMCA founders felt responsibility and accountability for character development of all youth. We know today that character education is the responsibility of the whole culture. Youth deserve positive role models, supportive environments, opportunities to contribute to the community, and ways to make a difference. The YMCA of Greater Seattle has developed a goal of providing activities for youth which shape values and encourage lifelong community service.

YMCA Core Values

Respect – act of giving esteem, special regard; syn: consideration, regard, non-prejudiced, appreciation, deep concern, courteous

Responsibility – moral, legal or mental accountability, able to answer for one's conduct or obligations; syn: reliability, self-restraint, just, accountability, pursuit of excellence, fair

Honesty – fairness of conduct, adherence to the facts; syn: integrity, straightforward, promise-keeping, trustworthy, incorruptible

Caring – to feel interest of concern, to “to the extra mile,” to serve; syn: thoughtful, kind, unselfish, attentive, compassionate, empathetic

Faith – belief in the unseen, trust in God, sincerity of intentions; syn: belief, loyalty, trust, steadfastness

Fun – play and joy; syn: amusement, enjoyment, play, sport