

Play Fair

Coach Talk:

Playing fair means that everyone is playing by the same rules. It's important that everyone plays by the rules so that one person or one team doesn't have an unfair advantage. Following the rules is also a way to show respect to others.

- Why do you think it's important to learn to play fair?

Story:

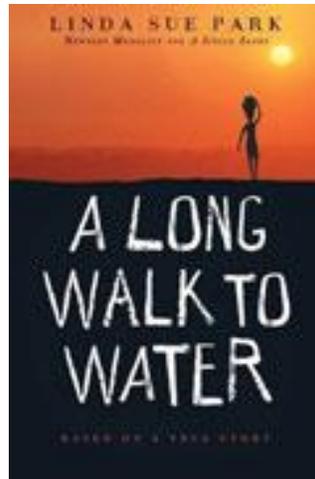
Maria always tried to play fair with her friends and in soccer. She believed that everyone should follow the rules so that no one had an advantage. Her mother told her this was a very good quality that every footballer should strive to have. Her mother also explained that playing fair can mean that we think about others around the world who don't have the same chance to play with a soccer ball. Maria's mother was from Argentina and she grew up in a poor village. She told Maria that many kids that live in villages have never seen a real soccer ball. They play with rolled up plastic bags or some other material made into a "rag" ball. The thought of not having a soccer ball made Maria feel sad. A young boy in Uganda with a "Rag" ball.



Parents' Corner:

A large percentage of kids around the world live in poverty. They lack clean water, healthy food and basic medications. Many do not have access to education and are forced to work at very young ages to help support their families; especially if they have lost parents to HIV/Aids or war. If we're going to help eliminate hunger, provide clean, safe water and give every child access to school, then we all have to be a part of the solution. Creating opportunities for kids to play gives them a little bit of their childhood back. It helps them to learn self-control and to become physically healthier. Please consider talking to your child about what life is like for kids in developing countries and to expand their view of what playing fair means globally.

A great book to read with your child is *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park.



www.lindasuepark.com/books/longwalk/longwalk.html