

Parent Tips for Establishing a Positive Relationship with a Coach

In order to create the best possible athletic experience for a child, it is important that parents respect the coach and make an effort to establish a positive parent coach relationship.

- Make early contact with the coach to establish a positive open line of communication.
- Recognize the commitment of the coach and the many hours he/she spends on and off the field preparing and teaching your child.
- Take the time to compliment the coach when there is just cause. Coaching is a difficult job and all too often coaches only hear complaints.
- Be there to support a child and cheer them on regardless of how well they play. Focus on the positives and let the coach correct mistakes.
- Do not instruct a child during a game or practice. Parents are not coaches and it can be confusing to a child to hear instructions from someone other than a coach during a game.
- Cheer for all the players on the team and be sure to praise them for playing well.
- Encourage other parents to honor the game. If someone is showing disrespect for the other team or officials, respectfully suggest they honor the game.
- Do not attempt to discuss the coach's game plan or voice suggestions for plays or coaching techniques.

- Do not put a player in the middle of a situation by complaining about the coach in front of the child. If a situation or concern arises, arrange to speak with the coach privately.
- Do not approach a coach directly after a practice or a game. Emotions are at their highest at this time and can lead to a volatile situation. Observe a cooling off period of 24 hours when emotions are heated before discussing an issue with a coach.
- Follow the chain of command if the coach has assistants. Always address the head coach personally and respectfully when issues arise.
- Do not discuss concerns/issues with other parents or coaches. Take concerns directly to the head coach.