

"THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS IN ATHLETICS"

- The coach should ask his/her players how to deal with their parents.
- Simply ask the kids what they would like their parents to know but are afraid to tell them when it comes to athletic participation. Get written responses.
- Parents cannot deny the message if they love their kids because it came from their son or daughter.

What kids feel their parents' responsibilities are before, during, and after games:

1. Ask yourself why do you want your child to play, what do you expect out of your child, and what role do you expect him/her to have?
 - The parents' answer should be the same as the child. If not, there is a problem.
 - #1 reason kids play – FUN.
2. Once a parent is sure their kid is safe physically and emotionally, they should release them to the coach and let them enjoy the experience (successes and failures) of playing the game.
3. Yelling at an official is one adult screaming at another in a public setting we are supposed to be using to teach kids discipline and respect.
4. During the game, kids stated they need model, poise, and confidence from the parents.
5. Kids want parents to learn to watch the game and not concentrate solely on what they are doing.
6. Kids want their parents to focus on the team and team goals and take the focus off of them.
7. Kids want to hear one instructional voice during a game and that should be the voice they have heard all week long – THE COACH.
 - They do not want to hear their parents screaming instructions.
 - They want their parents to "Get Their Own Life."
8. Kids want their parents to be spectators – not coaches, officials, or players.
9. After the game, kids state their worse experiences have been in the car with their parents.
10. Kids need time and space after the contest. They do not need to be analyzed by their parents or listen to the parent criticize the coach or officials.
11. Kids should never be made to feel that their parent loves them more when they play well in a game and less when they have a bad game.
12. Kids need to hear "I love watching you play."
If they did not play, parents should say, "I love watching you be a part of the team."