

Lesson 3 Project: Outline for "Parental Conduct and Kids' Sports"

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I. Introduction

- A. Parents and coaches are breaking kids' sports by fighting on the sidelines, screaming abusively, encouraging physical violence among players, and generally modeling unsportsmanlike behavior.
- B. Young athletes (6-12 year olds) are becoming discouraged and dropping out of organized sports, not because of their own physical limitations or lack of knowledge, but because of the violent parental conduct, verbal and physical abuse of the coaches, and the lack of civility and sportsmanship.

II. Parents are losing their perspective and putting too much pressure on young players.

- A. Parents want the best for their children and when it comes to sports they want the young player to be the star, which appears to be causing them to treat youth sports as training for the World Series or the Super Bowl.
- B. Parents can be seen exhibiting "ferocious temper tantrums" and physically abusing coaches, as well as hitting, kicking, slapping, insulting, and verbally abusing their children (Lord, 2000).

III. The coaches of many youth teams vary from former players with some background, to volunteer dads, to "wannabe" championship coaches with little or no experience.

- A. Lancaster (2001) says that the coaches "are turning kids off" because they "have little or no experience in teaching a sport, and therefore don't know how to develop a young person's talent or teach the entire game" (p.13).
- B. Coaches need to have "more training in the rules of the sport, child psychology and dealing with parents" (Lord, 2000) to change their behavior

and emphasize supportive behavior to build the children's confidence, ability, and enjoyment of the sport (Lancaster, 2001).

IV. The quality of sportsmanship, civility, and ethics is being replaced by a "win at all costs" attitude.

- A. Children who are learning various sporting games need to know the fundamentals of the game, sportsmanship, and just enjoy playing.
- B. Parents need to praise each accomplishment, model sportsmanlike behavior, and be positive motivators (Lord, 2000)
- C. Coaches should be teaching young players the fundamentals, have an understanding of child psychology, encouraging respect for all of the players regardless of their ability, and most of all make it a positive enjoyable experience for all involved.

V. Conclusion

- A. Unsportsmanlike behavior and lack of civility on the part of parents and coaches is ruining youth sports and causing young athletes to turn away from participating.
- B. Parents and coaches alike need to take a hard look at the role models they are exhibiting, if necessary both need to go through training programs to review sportsmanlike conduct.

References

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