

The following is information taken from “Parents’ Guide to Kids’ Sports” by Rick Wolff.

FEW JOBS ARE TOUGHER THAN COACHING KIDS

If you have ever coached a team – whether a bunch of six-year-old, daisy-picking peewees or a group of highly talented, highly motivated teenagers – then you already know firsthand how challenging it is to be a coach.

Organizing practices, going to meetings, rescheduling games and practices because of bad weather, putting together line-ups, teaching the kids and, of course, working the games. Then there are conversations with concerned parents who want to know why Junior isn’t getting a chance to pitch or why Julie isn’t playing forward.

Quite honestly, few jobs in life are as flat-out tough (and rewarding) as coaching a kids’ team.

Why? Well, consider the basic job description. All you have to do is make certain that: 1) every kid gets lots of playing time 2) you win most of your games 3) you conduct yourself at all times in a mature manner 4) every kid gets individualized instructions, and 5) every kid has loads of fun.

Trying to balance these essential components for every child on a team is precisely why youth coaching can be so rewarding – and so difficult.

Fortunately, the vast majority of these volunteer coaches make every effort to accomplish the goals outlined above. Yet, occasionally, a coach will make a mistake, or maybe say the wrong thing, or even commit a strategic blunder. But before you reach out and throttle the coach, take a moment to see the action from his or her point of view.

* Remember that all parents think their kids are something special. The coach also knows that every Mom and Dad on the sidelines is watching every move their child makes in the game. And as such, just about every Mom and Dad expects their *wunderkind* darling to be recognized and treated as one of the real stars on the team.

In other words, the coach must accommodate an entire team of “star” players. That’s a daunting task, and it’s perhaps the most difficult one he must face.

* Don’t be surprised to discover that your “little angel” is a “real devil” when it comes to practice behavior and game effort. Coaches are often perplexed when kids don’t follow instructions, speak out of turn and, in general, act disrespectfully. But when the parents hear about his behavior, they can’t believe it! Trust me, though, it happens. So give the coach a break. Try to be objective with what he’s telling you about your child. He might be right.

* You may hate the coach, but your kids may love her! You may not go for the coach’s style, and you may automatically assume your child shares your sentiments. But surprise: It turns out that your kid loves playing for her! Again, don’t lay on your child your personal feeling about the coach. Let them form their own impressions.

* Above all, give the coach a pat on the back every so often. Coaching can be great fun, but it also involves a huge amount of work, sensitivity, competitiveness and compassion. Volunteer coaches are donating their time to make your child a better athlete and better person. Would you do the same for their child?

Some friendly advice

- Confrontation rarely accomplishes anything. Work with the coach to help your child master important skills and drills.
- It’s always easy to criticize a coach. But if you think you can do a better job, volunteer and learn for yourself.
- Coaches, like your kids, always respond more readily to praise than criticism. Approach them with a smile not a scowl.

A NOTE TO ALL BASKETBALL PARENTS

Coaching proves to be one of the toughest jobs around!!! **Please read the article included on this sheet!!!**

A few notes to parents:

*We have large numbers in many of the classes. Please be prepared for the players to be split on teams when they play games. All players may not play in all games.

*We may play extra quarters against other towns if they have large numbers in the same grade. Some of the other towns barely have enough for one team, so it will be hit and miss.

*Intramural games may be set up for the grades with large numbers. More volunteer coaches will be needed.

*Volunteers will be needed to keep book, score clock, calling trees, etc. If you don't want to coach, please volunteer for another job.

*Volunteer coaches and ideal gym times are not available to split all of the teams. If anyone would like to have additional practices, they will have to be on Sunday's or late on Thursday's or Friday's.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Rec Department at 402-269-2601 or parksandrec@syracusene.com.

REMEMBER TO CHECK WWW.SYRACUSENE.COM FOR UPDATED INFORMATION!



HAVE A GREAT SEASON!