



Fair Play: Coaches

Everyone involved in sport, from parents and spectators to athletes, officials, and coaches, can and should play a part in promoting fair play. The easiest way to do this is to lead by example and always respect the written and unwritten rules of the game. It is also essential to learn how to constructively manage stress so that fair play skills and instincts will not be lost in the heat of competition. Here are some examples of how you can incorporate fair play into your sport or recreation activity.

As a coach you are a role model and leader, and you have a significant impact on your players' attitudes. You can:

- Encourage your team to respect the opposing team and the rules of the game, and to accept the judgements of officials and opposing coaches without argument.
- Teach your players how to manage conflict and stress, and how to use good judgement in tough situations.
- Avoid overplaying talented players and allow average players fair playing time.
- Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with praise and set a good example.

FAIR PLAY CODES FOR COACHES

1. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
2. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, and opponents.
3. I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support, and fair playing time (this is not an equal play policy but a minimum playing policy which should reflect a minimum of 30% play over the duration of the entire provincial playoff cycle and not on one particular match).
4. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
5. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
6. I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
7. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.