

Parent-Spectators Scenarios and Expectations

To insure that everyone involved with the youth sports environment is aware of expected behaviors and the result of negative behaviors, the following situations are addressed.

1) Our child is on a team but we don't know what's going on. The coach should conduct a team meeting at the first practice. They should cover team rules and procedures. They should give you their phone number, if they don't, then ask for it. They will not have a schedule of games yet. Ask your questions then concerning how things will be handled. If you miss the meeting, ask the coach to meet with you after another practice. LCPR will not know when or where your team will be practicing, if it's rained out, or other detailed information, but LCPR can give you the phone number for your coach if you lose the number.

2) I feel the coach of the team does not like my child and/or treats them badly. The first step is to set up a Coach-Parent Conference where the situation can be discussed. Do not use the phone to register your complaint with your coach. You should bring someone preferably not a spouse but someone impartial and the coach should bring someone to cover the complaint. Do not hold the conference in view or earshot of the team members. Hopefully, the situation can be resolved using this method. The second step if the Coach- Parent Conference fails is to contact LCPR about the situation.

3) I feel the coach does not know how to coach the team effectively. All coaches of LCPR are volunteers. They coach because they want to give something back or they were drafted because no one else would take the team. Most coaches are just like everyone else they have work and family too. Some are very good and others are learning and given the opportunity will get better. The coach of the team is responsible for the decisions. You as the parent must abide by those decisions. Do not place your child in a situation where you cause conflict by telling them to ignore what the coach says and do what the parent says. If you feel the coach is not up to your expectations call LCPR. We'll try to find a place where you can help the team. Respect the team area. Parents should not be in a team area unless to attend to an injury.

4) I feel the official is not making the correct calls. Some of LCPR umpires and referees are just beginning. They will make mistakes, but they are unbiased and will do their best to officiate a fair game. LCPR will strive to put the best available officials to work its games. When a mistake is made or you think they made a mistake do not shout at or approach the official. If you have a concern, you can address it to your coach after the game. Taunting will not be permitted and parents, coaches and other spectators may be removed from the game if this occurs.

5) I feel our team practices too much or not enough. LCPR recommends for youth league a team have no more than 3 sessions per week that last for an hour to an hour and a half. Children have many outlets of involvement with organizations, school, church, and talent development. They should not be denied these opportunities. For participation purposes a coach can only hold players accountable for those recommended 3 sessions per week. If you feel your team is practicing too little or too much report it to LCPR.

6) The other team is acting unsportsmanlike. Children will behave as children. Adults must set the proper example. If negative behavior occurs tell your team that you will not behave in that manner and to ignore the other team's actions. Do not take it upon yourself to defend or correct the situation. Report the behavior to LCPR.

7) What stance does LCPR have on drugs & alcohol? Drug or alcohol use on County property is prohibited. Do not come to games under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If a person is seen with drugs or alcohol or appears to be under the influence, they will be asked to leave the premises. If they do not comply, 911 will be called to remove them from the site.

8) After the season starts we find out there is a school trip or church event. Once the season starts it is difficult to reschedule games due to make up dates reserved for weather cancellations. Please alert your coach immediately when you discover a schedule conflict. Personal trips do not qualify for consideration.