



SUCCESSFUL SPORTS PARENTING

Dealing with officials

- Parents should not question the decision of an official during the course of a game. If a parent needs to seek clarification they should approach the team coach or manager and apply similar guidelines to those above.
- It is never appropriate to question or abuse officials during or after a game.
 - Remember that officials are doing the best they can.
 - In most instances, officials have received training and have a better understanding of the rules.
 - Officials make mistakes, as do players. Even officials aren't perfect.
 - Officials may have a different view of the game to those of spectators and so may see something that you cannot, or vice versa.
 - Most officials are volunteers who give up their time to do the job. In fact, many officials are out there because nobody else will offer to do it.
- Your child may be asked to officiate in the future. How would you feel if they were abused for making a mistake? Officials deserve your respect and support.
- Remember, without officials there would be no game. Abusing officials will not change the outcome of the game but it will lead to fewer and less qualified officials.

Parents are role models for their children – your children will reflect your attitude towards coaches and officials. Have you ever offered to officiate or coach?

Other Resources:

"USSA Code of Conduct" 10 Commandments for Sport Parents

- I. Thou shall not impose thy ambitions on thy child.
- II. Thou shall be supportive no matter what.
- III. Thou shall not coach thy child.
- IV. Thou shall only have positive things to say at a competition.
- V. Thou shall acknowledge thy child's fears.
- VI. Thou shall not criticize the officials.
- VII. Thou shall honor thy child's coach.
- VIII. Thou shall be loyal and supportive of thy team.
- IX. Thy child shall have goals besides winning.
- X. Thou shall not expect thy child to become an Olympian.

Successful sports parenting strategies presented by the Montana Swimming Age Group Development Committee.