



Youth Sports Risk Management

Handout 1

Five questions to ask coaching candidates

- Why do you coach?

- What has been positive and negative about your prior coaching experience?

- Why did you leave your last coaching situation?

- If I asked each of these people about you, what would they say?
 - Parents of players

 - Players

 - Coaches of your opponents

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Handout 2

Five things to do to protect yourself from accusations of inappropriate conduct



1. Avoid being alone with players in non-public settings.
2. Document unusual situations and forward the documentation to your club president or league representative.
3. Do not buy gifts or give money to team members.
4. Let your language set the tone. Avoid profanity, even in conversations that you think are private but may be within earshot of players.
5. Never verbally demean, negatively label or ridicule a child based on appearance, gender, weight, sexual orientation, race or any other identifying characteristic.

STRATEGIC AND RESPECTFUL APPROACHES TO
CONTEMPORARY WORKPLACE ISSUES

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Handout 3

Five questions parents should ask themselves about their child's soccer coach



1. Do I believe that this coach is committed to protecting my player?
2. Am I willing to raise issues with this coach without fear of reprisal to my player?
3. Does this coach display a healthy limit on his/her interest in the personal lives of his/her players?
4. Does this coach support my role as a parent?
5. Does this coach appear to have respect for each of his/her players, regardless of things such as play time?



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Handout 4

The ten things your club/program can do to reduce the risk of sexual abuse or exploitation of children

1. Never fill your coaching slots with a "warm body." Check background, experience and history of a coach.
2. Do not allow an adult to come, unsolicited, into your club solely to coach children of a particular gender or age.
3. Create a structure where multiple adults share responsibility for the well being of each team.
4. Follow up on players who leave a team without explanation. Minimally, a phone call asking about the reasons is essential.
5. Educate parents about the expectation that they will raise issues to the coach or the club to assure that issues are properly addressed.
6. Have a strong and strongly enforced rule prohibiting fraternization.
7. Prohibit gift-giving by coaches that is excessively lavish or is not equal amongst the entire team (with the exception of "awards" of nominal value.)
8. If there is concern about the motives of a new or unfamiliar coach, consider asking a more experienced coach to co-coach for a few sessions with the coach, and to mentor the new coach.
9. Require all team travel to be preceded by a plan for lodging, supervision and other details, and to be signed by all parents and players. No club volunteer should be alone in the front seat of a vehicle with a child who is not part of their family or household.
10. Avoid being isolated with a child, or leaving a child unsupervised.

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