



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **Getting Players to Play the Best They Can**

1. Treat all players fairly.
  - Do not demand too much from the lesser talented.
  - After criticizing a player, say something positive to bring them back the next day.
  - Support your players every chance you get.
  - Do not blame the players.
2. Make all players feel important.
  - Team unity can be judged by the behavior of sideline players.
  - Stimulate your players to be the best they can be. Strive to be the best.
  - Coach, Coach, Coach and Coach some more before you criticize your players.
  - Stay in Control - cannot lose your temper.
3. Practice plans are very important – know what you are doing each practice.
  - Be well organized and keep your players moving.
  - Make practice fun for the players.
  - Practice the FUNdamentals everyday.
  - What your players learn is more important than what you know.
4. Enthusiasm is contagious - Practice it every day.
  - FUNdamentals are the most important factor that you can coach/teach.
  - Never get away from every day drills.
5. Coaches should never criticize another coach or argue with another coach in front of another coach or in front of the players.
  - Never allow a player to talk negatively about another player or coach.
  - Be concerned about injuries to all players not just the starters.
  - Make the game safe for the player
6. Make the game fun for your players.
  - Have the team so well prepared that their decisions come automatically.

Do not berate the refs. Do not use foul language in front of players. Be willing to suspend or remove a star player if he/she is disruptive to the team. Be open to new ideas and techniques that can make the team more successful. Listen to your players - don't do all the talking. Maintain a balance between a friend and the coach.

If you're a good coach, your former players will want to come back to visit and stay in touch. They will feel very comfortable around your current players. Honesty is the centerpiece of a coach/player relationship.

If you're a good coach, your players will play very close to how you teach them to play.