

What to Expect From Your Players and Their Families, and What They Can Expect From You as a Coach!

by: Todd Williams

With the season getting underway, here's a checklist of sorts that you can use to highlight your expectations for your players and their families; and a list of what they can expect from you as a coach. Use this information at your initial team meeting to properly set the stage for the upcoming season.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM MY PLAYERS?

- to be on time for all practices and games,
- to always do their best,
- to share team duties,
- to be cooperative,
- to respect themselves and others,
- to have a positive mental attitude,
- to always be positive with teammates,
- to accept that they'll make mistakes, but to keep their emotions in check and stay focused,
- to accept that winning and losing graciously is an important part of any sport.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM FAMILY MEMBERS

- to come and cheer all the players on and make them feel important,
- to allow me, the coach, to run the team,
- to recognize that I'll make mistakes, just like the players,
- to set a good example of respect for the players, the coaches, and the umpires by not yelling out negative comments and by being good sports,
- to call me privately if you have a concern, and never question my leadership in front of the players,
- to offer help when needed,
- to accept team assignments willingly.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME

- to be on time for all practices and games,
- to be as fair as practical on playing time,
- to do my best to teach the fundamentals of baseball,
- to be positive and respectful of each individual player,
- to set reasonable expectations for the season,
- to teach the value of winning and losing graciously,
- to be open to ideas, suggestions, or help,
- to set a good example of respect for the players, the fans, and the umpires by handling confrontations in a dignified manner.

These are just a few thoughts to get you started. I'm sure there are a few other things that could be listed. I think it's very important to set the expectations up front, because it could help you avoid potentially ugly confrontations later.