

Job Description
West Sedgwick County Basketball League – Coach

HEAD COACH: is under the direct supervision of each community's town representative/director and is directly responsible for all aspects of coaching in a healthy youth sports setting. All coaches must be someone who can act as a leader. The head coach is the adult designated by the league to deal directly with the young player. You are directly affecting each participant and the degree to which he or she benefits by his or her involvement in youth sports. Since the coach is the individual having direct contact with the player, he or she becomes one of the most important persons in determining the success of the league. Players are strongly influenced by their coaches in establishing their own ideals and aspirations. It is important the coach be a person who can be respected by his or her players & parents, because he or she did his or her job in giving them proper inspiration & instruction needed in becoming better citizens via proper mental and physical development.

QUALIFICATIONS: Must be dependable, reliable, positive, respectful and responsible. Should become certified in youth sport's coaching or willing to become certified.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Attend all coach's pre-season meetings and clinics. Attend appropriate youth coaching clinics that certify and maintain certification throughout coaching career.
2. Hold a Parent Meeting at the beginning of the year & discuss rules, equipment, conduct, etc.
3. Know the rules, regulations, philosophies & policies of the league and of the sport coaching.
4. Responsible for notifying players & parents of practices, games and team meetings. Including rules, codes of conduct, &/or any league information.
5. Responsible for the assigned team and organizing and running practices. Always arrive at practices 5-10 minutes early and games at least 15-30 minutes prior to scheduled time to prepare and gather team or help set-up.
6. Responsible to oversee assistant coaches duties and behaviors, along with team parents.
8. Insure the facilities and any checked out equipment are properly maintained and are safe and assure they are in proper order before, during and after practices or games. Have team pick up after themselves.
9. Make sure all participants have been picked up by their parents or have left safely before coaches leave the facility after practices or games.
10. Responsible for making decisions concerning inclement weather for practices only, as long as it follows USD's/program policy. For games, check the town/leagues line of communication at appropriate time and will relay message to each team member.
11. Teaches correct fundamentals and basic game strategy of respective sport in a fun & healthy manner. Teach & demand respect and sportsmanship towards officials, opponents, teammates & oneself and correct techniques and skills to play the sport & to help players avoid injury. Safety of the players is always a top priority.
12. Each coach should strive to give each player equal playing time regardless of ability, but must follow league rules. Only exception would concern behavioral and disciplinary situations.
13. Communicate with parents in such a manner that they are constantly informed of town & leagues and your philosophy, procedures and schedule. Maintain a line of communication with town representative/director.
14. Is familiar with and follows the league code of conduct. Stresses respect & follows sportsmanship!
15. Understands the officials are doing their best and appreciate their efforts & never yells at them or question any calls made by them.
16. I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth events.
17. Be a fun & positive role model to everyone involved and enjoy yourself too. If you are not having fun the kids will not have fun.

Youth Sport's Coaches Information

1. **The main reason kids play is to have fun.** Winning finishes much lower on the list. **We need to keep it fun by meeting their needs, not ours.** Some adult's reasons are often about winning to fuel their egos. Winning is great but getting kids to enjoy the game and learning fundamentals, respect and sportsmanship should be much more important.
2. We can expect players only to **try their best and strive to give everyone equal playing time regardless of ability.** To often coaches do not allow lesser skilled players opportunities equal opportunities and these players quit at to young of an age. It is impossible to say how kids will develop and grow over time. Do not be the reason a kid quits a sport at a young age. Kids sign up to play not sit on the bench. Participation is the number one reason kids come back to play each year.
3. We can find reasons to **praise each of our players often** to help them feel good about themselves. If they learn new skills and show good sportsmanship, even if they're not great players, they should be complimented for their effort which helps their confidence and can improve their play.
4. Some of us get angry and critical when our players & officials make mistakes. **But we all make mistakes.** We should be calm and offer suggestions in a friendly tone of voice. Too much criticism can reduce kid's enthusiasm. That criticism can cause even very skilled players to quit. Comments should be positive at all times.
5. **Learning to accept losing is an important life lesson** that we along with parents and others can help teach. We all suffer setbacks. We need only to rebound and try again next time.
6. **We should not criticize players, referees, or coaches.** For kids, that puts pressure on them, embarrasses them, and can decrease their interest in playing. Officials are doing the best they can at a difficult job. Sometimes they make mistakes as we all do. Referees and umpires can't change their calls. Many quit because of the abuse they receive. Yet we wonder why there aren't enough of them when we need them. It starts with the coaches to set the tone of a game, if you respond in anger to a call your crowd will follow and a negative atmosphere for the kids occurs. Discussing a situation with an official is fine, just do it at an appropriate time in a calm manner.
7. **You are the coach, so you coach the kids.** Officials are the officials, let them do that job and not offer negative comments. All comments should be avoided toward them, even the small jabs too: "foul", "no way", "traveling", "call it both ways", etc.
8. **Making negative comments to the officials only teaches kids to disrespect authority.** Regardless of the officials age they are the authority on the court. Once again this is a life lesson we can teach kids, to respect authority.
9. Remember that you are a youth sports coach, and that **the game is for children & not adults.**
10. One of the best things about being a youth coach is seeing the improvement of the team and players over the season. **Keep the big picture in mind** (teaching kids), don't just eye the small picture (winning a game).
11. We should not worry about whether others view us as great teachers of the game. We are giving a lot of our time and doing our best. If we are treating the players well by teaching with fun in mind and without anger, we are fulfilling our mission. Enjoy this opportunity.