Putting Sportsmanship into Practice

Babe Ruth League
Webinar
February 27, 2013

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Putting Sportsmanship into Practice

Agenda

• Defining Sportsmanship
• Coaching for Character Grade
• Poor Sportsmanship or Smart Baseball?
• Where do you draw the line?
• A Coach’s Role in Sportsmanship Education
• Three approaches for teaching sportsmanship;
• Sportsmanship guidelines for coaches; and
• A Coach’s Influence
Putting Sportsmanship into Practice

Let's start our discussion on the ground floor.

How do you define Sportsmanship?
Coaching for Character

Webster

Sportsmanship is an aspiration or ethos that a sport or activity will be enjoyed for its own sake,

Grade: D
Babe Ruth League

Coaching for Character

Webster

Sportsmanship is proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and ..... 

Grade: C
Coaching for Character

Webster

Sportsmanship is a sense of fellowship with one's competitors.

Grade: D
Sportsmanship is an aspiration or ethos that a sport or activity will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors.

Grade: D
Coaching for Character

The Cold Hard Facts

We talk a pretty good game but when the rubber hits the road it's all TALK!
Poor Sportsmanship or Smart Baseball?

People have been buzzing about the Derek Jeter fake hit-by-pitch that took place on Wednesday night. With the Yankees down 2-1 in the 7th against the Rays, Chad Qualls threw inside on Jeter who turned and acted as if he were hit by the pitch.
Poor Sportsmanship or Smart Baseball?

Turns out the pitch hit the knob of the bat — not Jeter — but Jeter acted hurt and was sent to first base. Derek Jeter didn’t play coy after the game. He was asked what that ball hit in the seventh inning, and Jeter answered as simply as possible. “The bat,” he said.
Poor Sportsmanship or Smart Baseball?

“It’s part of the game,” Jeter said. “I’ve been hit before and they said I wasn’t hit. My job is to get on base.” The question heard around the league, “Jeter’s actions, were they just smart Baseball or cheating?”

Posted by Chad Jennings - LoHud Yankee Blog September 15, 2010
Poor Sportsmanship or Smart Baseball?

It is an interesting question, one each of us needs to answer before we put a whistle around our necks;

“Where do you draw the line?”
“Where do you draw the line?”

Do you allow your players to....

1. Trash talk to opponents?
2. Respond to a umpire's call with anger?
3. Showboat or grandstand?
4. Respond disrespectfully to a Coach?
5. Break the rules without consequence?
“Where do you draw the line?”

Do you....

1. Yell and scream at your players?
2. Publicly demean or embarrass players?
3. Treat players differently after a loss?
4. Respond disrespectfully to a Coach?
5. Blamed a loss on an umpire?
Coaching for Character

What is a Head Coach’s role when it comes to Sportsmanship?

• Educate your Assistant Coaches
• Educate your Players
• Educate your Parents
• Educate your Fans

It all Starts with the Head Coach!
Coaching for Character

Here are some proven facts:

• We can’t expect children to do what is right if we don’t teach them.

• We can’t expect children to become good people unless we attempt to instill good habits in them and help them develop good character traits.
Coaching for Character

“Virtue requires practice”

Aristotle

Athletes can and must practice Sportsmanship just as they must practice a fast break, a double play, or a tee shot!
Step 1: Educate Your Assistant Coaches

• **Keep Winning in Perspective**

  ESPN, Sports Talk Radio, the Internet, Sport columnists have convinced the American public that **Sport is Winning**, it’s the **Holy Grail**, it’s the **Championship**, it’s a **Win-at-all Cost Attitude**!
Step 2: Educate Your Assistant Coaches

• Never Underestimate a Coach’s Influence

Players know by a Coach’s behavior that they approve of some things and disapprove of others. They know through observation that a Coach has certain Values!

What those values are will influence the values an athlete has.
Step 3: Educate Your Assistant Coaches

• **Good Sportsmanship is not optional**
  
  Coaches must buy into the fact that requiring good sportsmanship is consistent with the **Pursuit of Victory**. In fact we argue that not taking the pursuit of victory seriously is unsportsmanlike!

  Competitiveness, properly understood, not only does not conflict with Sportsmanship.....

  **It Requires It!**
Step 4: Educate Your Assistant Coaches

• Coaches need to understand they are moral educators - like it or not! They play a big role in the formation of character......

Good or Bad!
Bottom-line

Everything a Coach does, every reaction he makes tells a young athlete what kind of character he values. Practicing Sportsmanship means practicing an attitude of respect. To respect something is to value it and treat it as worthy.
Coaching for Character

Sportsmanship involves Respect for....

- Opponents,
- Teammates,
- Officials,
- Coaches, and
- The Game!
Coaching for Character

Three Approaches for Teaching Sportsmanship

• Teaching by explicit instruction,
• Teaching by example, and by
• Practicing Sportsmanship
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Sportsmanship Guidelines for Coaches

• Be a good role model – Actions speak louder than words! A coach should admit to their players when they fall short on their own sportsmanship ideals.

• Emphasize Sportsmanship from day one – Tell your players and their Parents what is acceptable behavior.
Sportsmanship Guidelines for Coaches

• Be clear on the relationship between sportsmanship and success – Success in sport is more than winning!

• Expect sportsmanship in practice as well as in games – practice makes perfect!

• Establish team rules and customs.
Sportsmanship Guidelines for Coaches

• Be clear in dealing with unsportsmanlike behavior – players don’t like surprises!

• Reinforce good Sportsmanship – if it matters to you make sure it shows!

• Don’t forget to have fun – It’s serious, it matters, but it’s a game. If no one is having fun, you’re not playing a game anymore!
Sportsmanship Guidelines for Parents & Fans

• Provide explicit Sportsmanship instructions,
• Publish the consequences of poor behavior,
• Team Teach Sportsmanship by example,
• Reward good Sportsmanship,
• Enforce a Zero Tolerance policy
Why Sportsmanship?

Because without Sportsmanship, sport is no longer sport; the game is no longer a game. If the game is valuable – if we play it for its intrinsic beauty – then sportsmanship is Priceless!
Why Sportsmanship?

Because it matters what sort of human beings we are – and it matters what sort of human beings the next generation becomes.

A Coach’s Influence!
The year was 1954 when the University of Oklahoma played Texas Christian University in the biggest game of the season. Oklahoma had won a National Championship in 1950, and from 1953 until 1957 the team would win two more National titles and 47 games in a row. OU was ranked # 3 and TCU was ranked # 4.
A Coach’s Influence

The Sooners led 21 – 16 late in the 4th quarter. TCU picked their way through the Sooners for another drive of eighty yards. Chuck Curtis hit Johnny Crouch with the winning touchdown pass in the right corner of the end zone. It covered twenty-one yards as the clock ticked toward triple zero. Owen Field fell deathly silent as an entire state lapsed into mourning.
Then, out of the blue, the fans witnessed a rare event that only Hollywood could have invented. TCU Captain Johnny Crouch sauntered toward field judge Don Rossi and held out the ball.

"Ref, I didn't catch it," he said.
"I trapped it."
A Coach’s Influence

Someone in Johnny Crouch life influenced his decision that afternoon?

His display of Respect and Sportsmanship was not by chance!

Coach Abe Martin
Coaching for Character

Sport and Character
Reclaiming the Principles of Sportsmanship
By Craig Clifford and Randolph M. Feezell

Social Issues in Sport, 2nd Edition
Examining sport from a critical perspective
By Ronald B. Woods

In Pursuit of Excellence
How to win in sport and life through mental training
By Terry Orlick, PhD
Thank You!

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