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“Coaching for Success”

While it is important that your team has fun, there is also value in teaching your team how to succeed. The preparation of your team goes beyond baseball specific skills and drills. You and your coaching staff should prepare your team on the mental aspects of the game as well, which can often be the difference between winning and losing.

We will outline ways in which you can better prepare your team for success. We will cover concepts such as:

- prioritizing your player's development ahead of all other objectives
- keeping the integrity of the game
- creating a successful team culture.



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“Player Development”

As a coach, you put the development of your athletes before anything else. Here are some checkpoints for making sure that the development of your players is the first priority:

- You arrive at practice prepared with an organized practice plan.
- You ensure your players are having fun and enjoying the game.
- You focus on teaching your players the fundamentals of the game.
- Player development and fun are priorities over winning.
- Communication is open and respectful between players and the coaching staff.
- You praise your players to further build their confidence, not tear it down.



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“Keeping the integrity of the game”

Keeping the integrity of the game means to play baseball the way it is meant to be played. This means you:

- Follow the rules and do not cheat.
- Embrace healthy competition.
- Shake your opponents' hands.
- Use good sportsmanship and avoid “playing dirty.”
- Respect all players, coaches, officials, and spectators.



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"Tips for Coach-Parent Communication"

The relationship between the coach and the parents is a key factor in the team's success. If the coach and parents are all on the same page, it makes the message the players are receiving on and off the field more alike.

The goal should be to maintain open lines of communication with all parents throughout the entire season. In order to do this, consider some of the following tips:



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"Tips for Coach-Parent Communication cont."

- Provide parents with contact information for the entire coaching staff and other parents at the beginning of the season.
- Set clear rules and guidelines for how to address concerns with the coaching staff.
- Provide parents with a detailed schedule and communicate any schedule changes as soon as possible. Additionally, include any duties that parents may have throughout the year.
- Ask that parents give you as much notice as possible if their child is going to miss a game or practice.
- Establish an email group to be able to send out messages to all of the parents.



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"Coaching your own kids"

- Coaching your own child can be difficult. Many parent-coaches are either too tough on their own kids or not tough at all. You want your child to feel as if they are being treated the same as their teammates, no more and no less.
- Here are some suggestions that could help you if you are involved in this unique coaching situation:



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"Coaching your own kids cont."

- Have your child refer to you as "coach"
- Refrain from spotlighting your own child in a single priority position
- Provide equitable character development opportunities (sportsmanship, work ethic, etc.)
- Prioritize your off-field relationship over your on-field relationship

Lastly, it is important to keep in mind that one day, you will no longer be their coach, but you will always be your child's parent.



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"Creating a successful team climate"

One of the most challenging tasks of a coach is bringing a team together as a collective group and moving towards the same goal. The ability to do this can enhance each player intrinsically through increasing perceived self-worth, and can enhance the team extrinsically through performance on the field. Click below to explore several factors that help to create a successful team climate.



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"Creating a successful team climate"

Autonomy

Players need to have the power to make decisions on their own, and not rely on the coach to make every in-game decision. When players are empowered to make decisions, they often take more ownership of the game and become more confident of their skills.



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"Creating a successful team climate"

Support

Support is needed throughout games and practices, but it becomes crucial when a player begins to struggle. Each player needs to feel supported so that when he or she does make a mistake or start to struggle, the player knows that the coach and team believe in him or her.



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"Creating a successful team climate"

Pressure

Be careful putting too much pressure on your players. While you may think you are pumping them up for the game, you could be adding pressure that may make them play more timidly, afraid to make mistakes.



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Recognition

Players need to be periodically recognized for the good things they do by the coaching staff. This promotes a positive environment that increases confidence.



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Trust

Coaches must trust the players to make decisions on the field, and the players must trust the coach to teach them the game and guide them. It is important to convey through actions and words that you trust your players to do the right thing.



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Fairness

All players are not created equally, but they must be treated equally. If the players think that another player is receiving more favoritism, they will start to resent that player and the coach. It is important to treat everyone as fairly and as equally as possible.



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Innovation

The team should be able show their overall personalities, as long as they do not interfere with performance. By letting your players' personalities come together and shine, a team personality is created that can stimulate even higher performance.



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Cohesion

Possibly the most crucial factor to a successful team climate is the cohesion of the team. Cohesion is a measure of a player's attraction to, sense of belonging to, and desire to remain a part of the team. The team should operate as one unit, not several small units.



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Pride

Players and coaches should feel proud to be a part of the team. By playing for a team and coaching staff that they believe in, players are more likely to give their best effort and take accountability in the team's overall success



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"Summary"

We just wanted to provide advice to help prepare your team to succeed. Some of the key takeaways from this unit are as follows:

- The development of your athletes should be a priority over winning.
- Keep the integrity of the game by upholding the rules and making sound ethical choices in all situations.
- Open and respectful communication is crucial in order to maintain good coaching-parent relationships.
- If you are coaching your own child, make sure they feel as if they are being treated the same as their teammates.
- The ability of the team to focus on a shared goal is crucial to creating a team culture that promotes success.

This is property as developed of Richmond City Baseball (1963)