

Attention Parents!

What You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

What should parents expect from their coach? At the beginning of every season, coaches typically hold a parent meeting. These meetings are designed for the coach to relay to the parents the expectations he/she has for your child, the team, and the parents. They may include administrative subjects or logistics. But in many cases they don't include what your expectations are for the coach. While some coaches will touch on it, here are a few things that a parent should expect from their child's coach. After all they spend a lot of time with your kids!

1. **Positive:** The coach should come to the rink with a positive attitude. They should encourage ALL the kids, and keep their criticism instructive and not demeaning.
2. **Enthusiastic:** The saying is true, it is contagious. Players feed off the coach. Keep a high level of energy at practice and games, positive, enthusiastic energy.
3. **Demanding:** You should expect your coach to be demanding but considerate. Expect effort and attitude, but be respectful of your kids.
4. **Consistent:** The coach should be consistent with how they treat the kids, from discipline to ice time, consistency is noticed! Demand it from the coach.
5. **Patience:** Ask your coach to have patience with the kids, allow for individual differences. Kids learn differently and at different paces. The coach should recognize this and adapt. Make sure they do.
6. **Feedback:** Ask your coach to provide feedback about your skater. Be sure it is constructive not destructive, be sure it is not personal. Require specific not general feedback so you can help your child understand what the coach is looking for.
7. **Role Model:** While this is a big demand to make of a coach, it is one they all should take seriously. Their behavior, dress, language, and actions all can have an effect on your children.
8. **FUN:** Demand this from your coach, at all levels, but especially at the youngest ages. After all, it is just a game. Coaches at times need to be reminded of this.