



GAME DAY BEST PRACTICES FOR COACHES

Coach, know what you stand for. Your values will be meaningful if you are clear about what they are, what they look like using examples, and how you expect people to live those values in your program.

Think about what you want your team to look like to others,
and also how you want it to feel from the inside out.

Here are some tips:

1

BE PREPARED

Set expectations by clearly defining your game day protocol to the players and parents prior to game day. Well thought out systems and organization allows everyone to breathe easier. For example, does everyone know what "on time" means for you?

2

BE A TEACHER

Regardless of an umpire's call, a player's error, or an opponent's attitude, maintain your composure and remain professional at all times. Be mindful of leadership opportunities throughout the game. People are watching you.

3

BE AWARE AND TRANSPARENT WITH YOUR VALUES

Treat all players equally but not the same. Establish core behavior standards and define them with examples. Be engaged with each player and their development as this will enhance trust. Be sure everyone knows what you stand for and communicate what the expectations are for parents at the field or in the stands for practices or games.

4

EXECUTE FAILURE MANAGEMENT

Master your game day failure recovery. Compliment the players who can regain their positive attitude before the next pitch. Start by showing them how that's done. Consistent positive behavior trumps talking; demonstrating works better than telling.

5

POST GAME CONVERSATION

Establish an efficient and consistent communication model and be sure you're in emotional control. Install a cooling off period after games if you need it. After a game it's helpful to include a game summary, future actions plans, and finish with authentic examples of game positives.