

Kids say the darndest things!



if we listen to and act upon what young people are saying to us about sport, they will enjoy it more and continue to participate

- Recently, focus groups attended by 9-13 year olds were asked a number of questions

about the kinds of things that motivate and encourage them to play sport and the things that put them off playing.

- The answers they gave are significant and have many strong messages for teachers, coaches and parents.
- We share these messages with you and invite teachers to conduct similar focus group sessions with their classes.
- Record the results and share with parents and coaches at your school to improve adult attitudes towards children's sport. This in turn will encourage greater student participation and ensure they have positive sporting experiences.

Q1. What do you like about sport?

- playing sport is fun
 - my friends play
 - I like making friends
 - it's good playing as a team
 - it gets you fit
 - it is a challenge
 - you improve skills
 - people are nice
- "I like playing netball because it's a team sport and lots of my friends play."*

Q2. Is there something you don't like about sport?

- foul play
- cheating
- violence from spectators
- bad sportsmanship
- loud mouthing
- poor losers
- biased referees
- bad coaches
- parents screaming
- being always on the bench

"Dad yelling from the sideline. It's not really like a spectator, it's like taking over the coaching, it's not really support saying get the ----ing ball."

Q3. What makes a bad coach?

"Yelling at you and shouting 'just go Michael you stupid idiot. Just pick up the ball and run'."

- coaches who don't show up
 - bossy ones who shout
- "He gets kind of grumpy and doesn't really care if you do something right. If you do something wrong you get a big telling off"*

"She asks us to come to netball practice early on Friday and then she comes late."

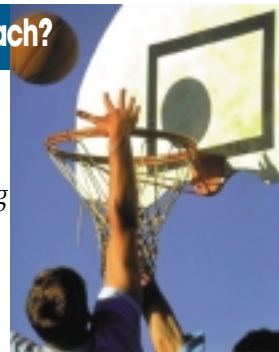
Q4. What makes a good coach?

"My coach doesn't complain. He's really fair."

"The best coaches don't tell you off when you do something wrong. They teach you how to do it better."

"My coach gives the most improved player award to people who really deserve it."

"I like them when they make things fun."



Q5. What do you think about parents and sport?

"After I lose I have to stay home and do the dishes ... he gives me money if we win. If I get a certificate he gives me heaps of money."

"I hate the way he gives me lectures about how I play"

"Dad is my coach and I like it but sometimes if I don't do something right he shows off in front of my friends."

Developing a 'good sport' charter

- Use the five questions above as the basis of a classroom or school survey. Further questions can be added and should come from the students as you involve them in carrying out the survey, **eg**
 - what sports do you like and why?
 - what is good sportsmanship
 - what happens when you win/ when you lose?
- The best results are gained when the survey is conducted by students for students and the respondents know they will not be identified by their answers.
- Share and discuss results at a class and parent sport day. Have parents, coaches and students agree on a charter to promote better enjoyment and participation in sport.

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