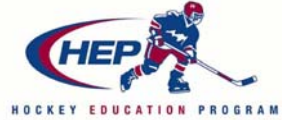




**HEP Parent Education 2007-08  
Situation Discussion  
Squirt/10&Under and Up**



**An Abusive Spectator on your Team**

This is the first year your son is playing Squirt A hockey. He was one of just two players who moved up to play with this team this season, making your family newcomers to the team. During games, you have started to notice another parent from your team being verbally abusive to the players, referees, and coaches. Although the other parents seem used to this parent's antics, you feel the behavior is uncalled for and feel obligated to do something about the situation.

Discussion Questions:

1. As the newcomer, should you attempt to do something about the spectator who is being verbally abusive? Yes/no and explain.
  - a. If yes, what actions should you take?
  - b. What may be the potential consequences of your actions?
2. What role does administration have in this situation?
3. Are there levels of verbally abusive behavior that is acceptable given whether the recipient is the spectator's child, the referees, coaches, or the opponent?

**The Ride Home after a Tough Loss**

Your daughter's team was up by two goals at the end of the second period. In the third, the opponent scored two goals to tie it up, forcing the game into overtime. Your daughter's team controlled play the entire game; and although the opponent scored twice during the third period, they were confident they could win it in overtime. Unfortunately, the opponent took control of the face off and scored only a few seconds into overtime. As expected, your daughter's team is very disappointed and frustrated after a tough loss. You have an hour car ride home with your daughter.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you approach your daughter about this tough loss?
2. What can be learned from the loss?

## **Approached by Coach for Daughter to Play on All-Star Team**

At the end of the season, the coach approaches you to ask if your daughter would like to participate on an all-star team this summer. He highlights the benefits of this participation which include: a trip to play in a tournament in Canada, more intensive training with a well-known retired NHL player, be seen by college coaches, and being able to play with some of the best youth hockey players in the world.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Although the coach mentioned several benefits to participating on an all-star team, are there consequences? If so, what consequences do you foresee?
2. Do you consult with your child to see if she would be interested in participating on this all-star team?
3. Is it appropriate for a 10 year-old child to be playing on an all-star team?

## **Coach Playing a Short Bench**

Your son is an “average” player and typically plays on the fourth line. In the past, his coach has always done a good job of using the depth of the team, allowing all lines to play in the game. The past few games, however, your son’s coach has been playing only the first few lines. Your son knows he is not the best player and usually does not complain about not getting equal playing time.

### Discussion Questions:

1. As the parent, how would you react to this situation?
2. When, if ever, would you discuss this situation with your son’s coach?
3. If your son becomes discouraged with the lack of playing time, how do you advise him to handle the situation?