

## SPECTATORS CODE

1. Remember children play sports for fun
2. They are not there to entertain you and are not miniature athletes
3. Be polite - no profanity or harassment
4. Show respect, don't scold child players
5. Condemn violence in any form
6. Respect the officials decisions
7. Encourage players - play by the rules
8. Support coaches and referees decisions

***EVERYONE PLAYS!  
EVERYONE WINS!***

### Lockwood's 'Leven Commands for Sports Parents (Our Condensed version)

- 1. Don't act like a jerk in front of your kids:** While watching the game, refrain from silly, boorish or abusive behavior.
- 2. Sports Algebra:** The more serious our attitude toward our children's participation in sports, the less fun it becomes for us and the kids.
- 3. We know that this is true, but let's act like we know it is true:** Ninety-nine percent of all kids involved at the elementary level do not have the kind of talent to play professional sports or win athletic scholarships to college. Enjoy what they can do now.
- 4. Know who is playing:** These are our children out there on the field, not us. Their performance is not a reflection on us and has nothing to do with our self-esteem.
- 5. Other people's kids are still kids:** When children are young, remember they are just trying to have fun under difficult circumstances (namely, being watched by adults). The other team is just a bunch of other kids in different uniforms. Treat them as kindly as we would want our child treated.
- 6. Put up or shut up:** Understand that coaches and referees usually are volunteers who give up a lot of their time to help our kids. They are not professionals and are going to make mistakes, so if you don't like the job they do, then volunteer.
- 7. The exception to #6:** Some coaches try to be professional coaches and no coach has the right to treat our children in a disrespectful or abusive manner. We have every right to pull our kid off the team and complain to officials.
- 8. Take the pulse regularly:** The one reason children should be involved in athletic sports at elementary level is to have fun. If the child is not having fun, there's no reason to continue. Check regularly!
- 9. If you don't have something positive to say, don't say it:** Kids don't want a rerun of a bad game. If they did well, celebrate it. If something bad happened & you want to talk about it, talk about it but only to build the child up.
- 10. You are supposed to have fun, too:** If the "fun" only depends on a win, or how well your child did, then we have got to reexamine our whole attitude. At the end of the game-win or lose-a good time should have been had by all.
- 11. Every kid is his or her own kid:** Some kids like sports, some don't. Some are good, some aren't. It doesn't depend on whether we liked sports or were good at sports. Every child is a unique gift from God. We never want to define a kid's worth by the level of skill on a playing field.