



HOME OF COLOSSAL BASEBALL

Dear Parents,

The coaching staff of Colossal Baseball and I would like to thank you for deciding to be a part of the Colossal program. I believe that this program has made great strides in its short existence but before we can go any further some things need to be discussed so that you and your son know what the Colossal program is all about. We as a coaching staff believe that this is a learning experience for your son and that you as parents play a much bigger role in his success than you think. The coaching staff believes that yelling or screaming at the kids will only hurt the kids in the long run. Our staff will only use constructive coaching methods involving one on one conversation (no yelling).

The first thing you need to understand is that at this level of play umpiring will not be very good. Often times the umpires will make bad calls. Your son must not show any emotions towards them such as pouting, shaking their head or saying anything. It is our job as coaches to handle the umpires. That being said, parents are also not allowed to say anything to umpires. Negative comments only cause your child to do the same and that is not the type of sportsmanship we are trying to promote. Your job is to get your son to the game and enjoy watching him play. There is nothing wrong with cheering and clapping when your child does well. Our problem is when you constantly yell at him to do better and make excuses when they make mistakes like "Come on what are you doing", "Throw the ball", "It's ok", "Not your fault", "It's fine it took a bad hop" etc. These comments put additional pressure on him and let him know that mistakes are acceptable. These types of comments hurt him more than you realize. We are attempting to instill certain skills and applauding or excusing a player's mistakes undermines our teaching method. Remember this is all about improving the boys' skill set, not parental egos. In addition, please refer from yelling at other members of the team as well during the game such as "Oh my God, throw the ball" and "What are you doing?" etc. Please let the coach handle these situations. The players need to learn the right way to play the game. If parents keep making excuses for them and put additional pressure on them, I can assure you that your son will be done playing baseball at an early age. During my twenty-five years of coaching, I have seen this occur more often than you can imagine. Again, I am not saying you cannot clap when your child does well. I am saying that if you allow us to coach him, let us do our job! Your yelling or coaching from the stands or sideline will only have a negative result. Please trust me on this!! Once your child stops looking for excuses and can relax you will begin to see your young boy turn into a young man.

In addition, parents must stay away from the dugout completely. Again, all this does is add pressure and causes your son to look for you for comfort when he makes mistakes. Mistakes are fine but let the coaching staff correct them in the right way. In my 20 years as a high school head coach, I sent 45 kids to the next level of baseball. I assure you that these players' parents were a silent constant source of support that never tried to come near the dugout or try and coach. I believe that your help at home in practicing catching, throwing or hitting can make them better players. Repetition is huge, and I encourage this very much, but just not when they are on the field with their coaches. Also, please remember undermining the coaches to your son when you get in the car or at home or to other parents will only have a very negative impact on your child in the long run. This type of negative criticism will give him the incentive to rely on excuses and put added pressure on him on the field. My suggestion would be to say something like: "Keep going hard son and listen to your coaches." Trust me you will see a difference in him.

Some of you may believe your son is not being used correctly on the team, whether he should be playing another position or batting different in the order etc. If you have a problem and want to talk to the coach, please do it after the game privately. The coaches will answer your questions with 100 percent honesty.

For Colossal to become an even more successful organization there must be a commitment to the program. We understand that the boys may have other interests with regards to playing other sports, attending birthday parties, family gatherings etc., and there will be some exceptions that cannot be avoided, but this must be your first commitment when we have a game or practice. This is the only way its fair to all parties involved: the coaches, his teammates and the parents. It would be unfair to a child who has given a full commitment to lose playing time to another child who is not there as much. I assure you as they get older and mature as players this early lesson of commitment will help them be prepared for the higher levels of sports where there is a zero-tolerance level among coaches for a lack of commitment.

Your child has a very good opportunity as a member of the Colossal program. He will be coached by men who are head coaches in high school and who have played baseball at very high levels. These coaches are trying to teach your son the right way to play the game with character. Although we will not win every game, I can assure you that, I can guarantee your son will leave the program a better player and a better person. We will have no hard feelings if you decide to play somewhere else in the future and we wish you luck with all your son's athletic pursuits.

K Regn