

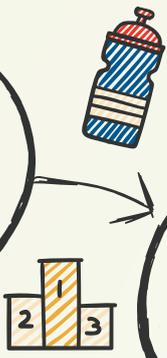
Let Kids be Kids

stop poor sideline behaviour in junior sport



that's **60%**

Here's what they want from sport



1. To have fun.
2. To do something they're good at.
3. To improve their skills.
4. To stay in shape.
5. To get exercise.²

Sport is generally a positive experience for most kids, but... 75%

A UK study showed that 75% of children who participated in organised sport up to the age of 16 had been criticised for their performance, had been shouted or sworn at or had been embarrassed or humiliated by a coach, parent, peer or sports administrator.³

"Mum and Dad, I sure love sports, but it seems like my sports make you guys angry more than they make you happy."⁵



Australian research shows that aggressive behaviour on the sidelines is embarrassing junior footballers, making them lose confidence and can lead to them quitting the sport.⁴

How to recognise poor behaviour

1. Emphasis on winning/results
2. Abuse/intimidation of coaches/officials
3. Excessive instruction from the sideline
4. Putting down children in front of others
5. Criticise performances on the drive home

Positive things we can do

- Respect all athletes, coaches and officials
- Support, encourage and praise efforts
- Be enthusiastic and positive
- Emphasise fun and enjoyment
- Be quiet and listen

Free resources to help

Free toolkit:
<http://playbytherules.net.au/let-kids-be-kids>



1 4156.0 – Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2012.
 2 Clark, M. A. (n.d.). Winning! How Important Is It in Youth Sports? Retrieved November 11, 2004.
 3 Kate Alexander, Anne Stafford, Ruth Lewis (2011). The experiences of children participating in organised sport in the UK. The University of Edinburgh/NSPCC Child Protection Research Centre.
 4 Samuel Elliott and Murray Drummond. "Parents in youth sport: what happens after the game?" Sport, Education and Society, May 6, 2015.
 5 O'Sullivan, John (31 January 2017). 'An open letter from the back seat' in Sports Parenting.