

**Case Study 4: You've just finished watching your child's third game of the season, and you already see a problem with the coach. He plays players in the wrong positions and makes bad strategic decisions. As a Second-Goal Parent, what should you do?**

Your main objective in this situation is to retain your Second-Goal focus. You are not the coach. You are not the athlete. You are a supporting player in this drama, so act your part and move to the background.

You might think about the Hippocratic Oath doctors take: Do no harm. Doctors do nothing if they think they might make things worse. The chances of you improving this situation by making strategic suggestions are very small, while the chances of making things worse for your child or for the team are significantly higher. Do no harm. Stay out of this.

Here's what you can do:

- Write on a piece of paper your strategic suggestions for how you think your child's coach should handle the team. Put it in an envelope. On the outside of the envelope, write "For when I become the coach." Put it in a safe place. Whatever you do, don't give the suggestions to the coach.
- Let your child have her own experience with this coach without you taking over. Having a coach who makes bad strategic or tactical decisions isn't a tragedy. Most youth coaches are not Phil Jackson or Doc Rivers (and even these amazing coaches get lots of criticism from fans whenever anything they do fails to work perfectly). But that's okay. Your child will have talented and untalented supervisors in his life, and learning to deal with both kinds is a great life lesson.

■ There are a number of reasons to intervene with your child's coach. Among them:

- The coach is verbally or physically abusive to your child or others on the team.
- The coach is draining the enjoyment from your child's love of sports.
- The coach is engaging in unethical behavior.

This is not any of those, so let it be.

■ Thank the coach for his time and effort after each game and each practice, without making any suggestions about his coaching.

Use the guidelines described in the Coach-Parent Partnership, found on page 59, to help your child have the best experience with any coach.

# POSITIVE SPORTS PARENTING

How “Second-Goal” Parents Raise Winners in Life Through Sports



By Jim Thompson



BETTER ATHLETES  
BETTER PEOPLE

To learn more about *Positive Sports Parenting* and other PCA books visit [www.positivecoach.org/our-work/our-books](http://www.positivecoach.org/our-work/our-books)

For more Resources, visit: [www.PCDevZone.org](http://www.PCDevZone.org)

For more information on Positive Coaching Alliance, visit: [www.PositiveCoach.org](http://www.PositiveCoach.org)