



Asking the Coach for Better Answers When Your Kid Is Cut

This resource stems from a question submitted to the Ask PCA blog. Responses come from our experts including PCA Trainers, who lead live group workshops for coaches, parents, administrators and student-athletes.

"I am a mother of a 10-year-old male athlete who I signed up to play fall baseball with his friends. I received a response back from the coach saying "due to the parents" I don't have any room for him to be on my team...Since his father and I are not in "their parent clique" then he is not going to be part of the team and play with his school friends...I am blown away by his response and really don't know how to grasp his response and even make sense of it. What do I tell my 10-year-old?"

PCA Response by Tina Syer, PCA Chief Impact Officer

Thank you for reaching out to PCA with this question. I'd suggest you reach out immediately to the coach to ask for a phone conversation. When he says "due to the parents," what does he mean? I think you need and deserve more information. In my experience, this sort of response from a coach is unusual, and it implies he (the coach) feels this decision is not in his hands. Perhaps you ask him if there is a team manager (likely a parent of one of the players) that is organizing the roster. You may be best served talking to this person directly. Perhaps the team manager will let you know that the particular league allows only a certain number of players per team, and the team hits this number with returning players (or players who signed up first)?

Bottom line, you definitely need to better understand what went into the coach's response.

If it turns out there is not space for your child on this team, you can talk with your son about the up-sides of playing on a different team. You'll explain that (for whatever reason you are given) there was not enough room on this given team for all of the kids from his school, so you've found another playing option for him. Perhaps you can learn a bit more about the other team/league in which he'll be playing, so you can give him some specific positives. This might be that they play on fantastic fields; he'll get to make new friends; he'll get exposure to wonderful and different coaches, etc.





Better Answers, continued

The more you can put on a good face about this different playing opportunity, the better. As you know, kids are highly intuitive, and if your son senses you're disappointed he was "left off" his friends' team, he may get the sense that he has let you down in some way, which you obviously want to avoid.

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