

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS OF BASEBALL PARENTS**

- 1. Always be positive with your son; let him know that he is accomplishing something by simply being part of the team. A lot of others didn't even make the team, so don't put him down if he does not start or play much.**
- 2. Never offer excuses for him if he is not playing. There is usually a reason for it. Encourage him to work hard and do his best.**
- 3. Don't put down his coaches, etc. Remember the coach represents the "Authority", the "Parent", the "Teacher", the "Law", etc. If you are constantly bad mouthing your son's coaches, how can you expect the youngster to play for him. You are teaching your son to be a complainer, not a doer.**
- 4. Encourage your son to follow the team rules. Whether he is the starter or never plays at all, players must follow the rules pertaining to curfew, drinking, smoking or using tobacco products, girlfriends, promptness, and school. Baseball is a demanding sport and coaches must concern themselves with a player's off the field activities in order to get the maximum physical and mental performance out of his players.**
- 5. Insist on good grades. Check the number of hours your son spends on homework. It is the duty of the parent to see that their son is working in the classroom. (No matter how good a player is, if he doesn't have the grades he doesn't get in college - times have changed.) Eliminate the use of the car, phone calls, computers, television, etc. These things cut in on study time.**
- 6. Don't develop envy towards other players because you don't like their parents, etc. Don't try to live your life vicariously through your son. Baseball is a kid's game - let him play it. Don't show any animosity or jealousy to any of your son's teammates because they pitch more, get more hits, or even get a write-up in the paper. This type of envy rubs off on your son and it can devastate a team. Who cares who gets the hits, etc. , as long as everyone does their job to the fullest.**

- 7. Don't be a know-it-all. The coaches work with the players nearly 12 months a year and they know what each kid can do and what he cannot do. As a fan, you are entitled to scream your head off but don't become belligerent and arrogant toward players. They are amateurs (as well as the coaches).**
- 8. Insist on your son's respect for team rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Don't let him make fools out of his family, school and team by some uncalled-for gesture or incident whereby he will bring shame. Self-respect begins with self-control!**
- 9. Encourage your sons to improve their self-image by believing in themselves. A good beginning would be to encourage him to live a good Christian life. Start by attending church at least once a week. For some reason, the great players (pro, college, and many of my former players) have a lot of faith -- not only in their own abilities but also in GOD. They go hand-in-hand. Don't compare and contrast your son with former family members who played previously. Every youngster is different. Don't put added pressure on him by expecting him to be better than his brother, etc.**
- 10. Encourage your son to play for the love of the game - not a scholarship. This alleviates a lot of pressure off a young man. Scholarships are something that are in the hands of the college recruiters. Escambia High School doesn't give them. I've seen some great players fizzle because the pressure on them to get a scholarship was so great. Players become selfish, etc. Insist on unselfishness. Usually, good things happen to the unselfish, hard-working athlete.**