



MINOR SPORTS IN THE 2000'S

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Minor sports must be looked at more as a recreation rather than a profession. Children's sports should be a game and not a business to entertain adults. Children must have the opportunity to learn essential skills of the game so that it can be played in a safe, enjoyable atmosphere.

As we enter the 2000's, we must give the game back to the children. Adults must re-direct and limit their involvement to providing – in order of priority – excellent instruction is essential, skills of the game they are participating in, and then organizational and leadership skills. Minor sports must recruit volunteer coaches, officials, and executives who are motivated by a genuine desire to work for the child and who will continue to upgrade their abilities by attending clinics and seminars, be willing to advance and not stay traditional.

Politics in minor sports within communities and within or between associations and teams must be eliminated. Competition is necessary and desirable for children and must be continued, provided the social atmosphere in which it occurs is improved. Minor sports must not be such a "serious" activity for so many people, for so much of the year. There must be more open and honest communication and willingness to listen and consider alternative ideas, by all those involved in minor sports.

THE MINOR SPORT EXPERT HAS YET TO APPEAR

Development is necessary before competition. In order for this to take place, highly qualified leadership is necessary – we do not need characters but people with character. Players, coaches, parents, and officials must show more respect for each other. House league (recreational) teams must be as important as competitive teams. Parents should be seen but not heard near the playing area unless they are giving positive reinforcement, for BOTH teams.

A continuing program of education for parents, and children (future parents) should exist. These programs must provide knowledge about rules, the philosophy of minor sports, skill development, behavior at games, the structure and organization of minor sports, how to buy and fit equipment, with safety being a major concern for the children.

Playing rules must be modified for minor sports. Media can contribute to the growth and development of minor sports by providing positive and constructive coverage of ideas and events (3x3 cross-ice with smaller nets and small games for ALL players.) The media can also serve as a continuing forum (e.g. through talk shows, feature interviews, letter to the editor) to promote the introduction of new ideas for the future.

In conclusion, if minor sports are to achieve its goal as a game whereby children can have "FUN" and maximize their potential to become both a skilled player and a good citizen, then highly qualified leadership needs to be provided by adult volunteers. However, for the adult leaders to be successful in this endeavor, they need to draw upon expertise and resources that can best be provided by full time development coordinators located through out America. We must continue to build self-esteem within all children that participates in minor sports.

We MUST continue to teach the basic "FUN"damentals and make the sport a positive experience.

KID'S DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW until THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE.