In this letter, the writer concludes that people in Parkville should discontinue organized athletic competition for children under nine. The writer proposes three evidence including injuries, psychological pressure to win games and reduction of time for academic activities, which is seriously flawed and can’t support the conclusion.

The first problem of the argument is that result of the study doesn’t tell us real injury rate of children below the age of nine participated in organized athletic competition. The study shows that totally 80,000 young players injured but it doesn’t tell us the total number of young players around the country. Therefore, we can’t judge whether the injury rate is very high or not. Even if the injury rate is proved to be very high, the writer can’t assume that the injury rate in youth-league softball and soccer throughout the country can be equally applied to children participated organized athletic competition in Parkville.

Besides, the writer quotes another study, in which several youth-league softball players in major cities is reported to suffer from psychological pressure from coaches and parents. However, this study is also not conducted in Parkville and the interviewees are only youth-league softball players so the result is not convincing enough. The study doesn’t clearly define what is psychological pressure and interviewing the children is not an accurate approach to evaluate the real psychological condition of these children.

Finally, the writer jumps to the conclusion that people in Parkville should discontinue organized athletic competition for children under nine because the disadvantages apparently outweigh any advantages. This is a fallacy because the writer doesn’t take any advantages into consideration and doesn’t compared the disadvantages with advantages. It’s universally acknowledged that participating in competitive sports can help children build up good physiques and improve their health. It can also teach children the significance of team work and how to make friends with both their teammates and opponents. Thus, we cannot simply neglect the advantages of children participating organized athletic competition.

To conclude, the letter would be more credible if the letter found studies that proved children participated organized athletic competition in Parkville suffers from high injury rate or psychological injury and these disadvantages are indeed overweigh advantages. As it stands, the letter is flawed and hardly convincing.