



Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association

February 10th, 2004

Coaching our Youth

In the past few months, we at the Provincial Office have received a number of complaints from parents, bowlers and spectators regarding the conduct of some of our youth coaches. These range from coaches encouraging their bowlers to begin chanting when the opposition is in their approach, to stalling tactics in later frames, to not using lane courtesy. O5PBA is committed to do what ever we can to put a stop to these and similar complaints.

Children participate in bowling to have fun, improve their skills, belong to a group, gain recognition, and find excitement. Conversely they leave our sport because of other interests, boredom, lack of success, too much pressure, loss of interest, and, most importantly, it ceases to be fun.

We as coaches must provide proper leadership so that our youth can

- ❖ Develop a positive self image
- ❖ Learn to work as a team
- ❖ Develop social skills with other bowlers and their parents
- ❖ Learn to manage both success and disappointments
- ❖ Learn to respect themselves and others

Sport can affect a child's self-esteem and self-worth. One way that a child will gain acceptance by their parents and peers is to be good at activities valued by other children. The primary goal of a good coach is to help children find success in our sport to make them feel valued and wanted.

As a coach you are a figure of authority and a role model. You should have the proper attitude toward sport that will instill values of sportsmanship and fair play. As a coach, you are the most important link in providing a healthy sport experience. A good coach must balance a sound philosophy of coaching with high ethical standards and a solid understanding of skill learning, growth and development, and the needs of the athletes.

As a responsible coach you must act in the best interests of our youth bowlers.

As a responsible coach you must refrain from and refuse to tolerate from both your bowlers and parents anything that is detrimental to the sport of 5 pin bowling.

If winning at all costs is your coaching philosophy, maybe you should be looking for a new sport.

Dave Post

O5PBA Coaching Chair