

**Rise To The Top** by Head Coach Dave Gibson

**What do coaches want from parents?**

A. Non-interference in technical matters

1. Let the coach do the coaching. Hire the person you want to teach.
2. No stopwatches or comparisons within the team.
3. No second-guessing.
4. Let the coach suggest the racing strategies.
5. Let the coach suggest the appropriate goals.

B. Support for their programs with individual children

1. Discuss questions the parent has with the coach, not the child.
2. Once decision is made, support it, don't second-guess with the child.
3. Parents should separate performance from the person, the child.  
(love your child, support your child, support your athlete)
4. Understand and help create appropriate child self-image.
5. Reinforce values of the sport and life that coach is trying to teach.
6. Dietary considerations and help.

C. Support for the overall program

1. Participate in accepted communication procedures for the team.  
(not part of the gossip mill... bleacher bums, etc.)
2. Financial support... fundraising.
3. Administrative support... get things in on time.
4. Attendance at parent meetings.
5. Verbal support... speak well about what you like.
6. Responsible effort at punctuality at meets, practices, etc.
7. Private discussion of problems/concerns... as long as reasonable.

D. Philosophical cooperation

1. Know the philosophy of the coach as it relates to their group and the team.
2. Support this with the athlete, or at least give it a chance.
3. Promote this philosophy with others.

E. Personal consideration

1. Recognize coach's right to a personal life.
2. Respect hours and private time.
3. Communicate with coach at designated times and places.

F. Respect

1. Treat the coach like a peer, not a child.
2. Personal courtesy. (language, approach, etc.)
3. Recognize the financial implications in asking for “favors”.  
(coaches earn their living coaching... it is not all for “love of the sport”... or soon they cannot afford to love the sport.)
4. Respond as to a professional, not “hired help”.

G. Personal role models of parents to be reasonable

1. Encourage, if not exemplify...
  - a. fitness
  - b. good eating habits
  - c. refrain from over-indulgence... alcohol, etc.
  - d. dependability
  - e. good team members
  - f. personal discipline
  - g. goal orientation
  - h. punctuality
  - i. honesty
  - j. fairness
  - k. tolerance
  - l. directness
  - m. good soldier... good leader
  - n. and a million other things we would all like to be...