

# 10 Commandments of Basketball Parents

1. Be positive with your son, let him know he is accomplishing something by simply being a part of the team. Don't put him down.
2. Don't offer excuses for him if he is not playing or not playing well in a game. Encourage him to work hard, communicate with his coach, and do his best.
3. Don't put his coaches down. Remember the coach represents the "boss," the "authority," the "parent," the teacher," and the "law." If you are constantly bad mouthing your son's coaches, how can you expect the youngster to play for them?
4. Encourage your son to follow the rules. Whether he is a first stringer or the last player on the team, players must follow rules. Basketball is a demanding sport and the coaches must concern themselves with a player's off the court activities in order to get maximum physical and mental performance out of their players.
5. Insist on good grades. If he doesn't have passing grades, he doesn't play.
6. Don't try to live vicariously through your son. Basketball is a kid's game; let him play it. Don't show animosity or jealousy to any of your son's teammates. This type of envy will rub off on your son and devastate a team. The game is about roles on the team and their ability to fulfill those roles for the benefit of the team. Your vision of your son's role will not always match that of the coach. The coach will establish roles and simplify the job of the players so they contribute to the team's success.
7. Don't be a know-it-all. The coaches work with the players nine months a year, or more, 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 please don't become belligerent and arrogant toward the players. They are amateurs, not professionals. Coaches know their talent. Respect their knowledge.
8. Insist on your son's respect for team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Don't let him make fools of his family, the school, and team by some "uncalled for" gesture. Self-respect begins with self-control.
9. Encourage your son to improve his self-image by believing in himself. Every person has been created with worth and value. Don't compare or contrast your son with family members who have played previously. Everyone is different.
10. Encourage your son to play for the love of the game, not for a scholarship or something that is in the hands of a college recruiter. Insist on unselfishness. Usually, good things happen to unselfish and hard working people.