



THE PLAYBOOK THEY NEVER GAVE YOU: THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH BASEBALL



NUMBER ONE

OUR ACTIONS MUST MATCH OUR WORDS

If we say our children are the most important part of our lives, then our choices - especially in youth sports - must reflect that belief. Too often, we chase trophies, rankings, and future scholarships - sometimes at the expense of our children's well-being. But what if we truly prioritized them, not just as players, but as people?

To act as if our children truly matter most, we must bring "player development" into healthy alignment with "child development." This means recognizing that athletic growth should never come at the cost of emotional, mental, or social health. Kids need environments that support confidence, joy, creativity, and resilience. They need coaches and parents who value effort over outcome and who understand that failure is part of growth - not something to be feared or avoided.

When we align player development with child development, we're no longer just shaping athletes - we're raising strong, thoughtful, and grounded young people. Practices become opportunities to teach life skills. Games become platforms for learning teamwork, leadership, and perseverance. And winning becomes a byproduct of doing things the right way - not the sole objective.

Our children are not mini adults or professional athletes in training. They're kids - with developing minds, fragile emotions, and limitless potential. If they truly are the most important part of our lives, then everything we do - from the bleachers to the dinner table - should affirm that.

It's time our actions reflect our priorities. Aligning player development with child development is where that journey begins.

Just one of the 10 fundamentals principles you will find in **The Playbook They Never Gave You** - A Guide to the 10 Principles Of Youth Baseball, Softball And Soccer...NEW from 3A Athletics. A short 20 minute read that will enhance your journey through the culture of youth sports as a parent.



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