



“Possible vs Plausible”

A lighthearted look at possible sideline behaviors?

Possible Scenario:

You’ve ripped your child off a team that they are happy on and developing well with, because the (perceived) path to college is somewhere else (do this especially when they are around age 10, don’t want to miss the boat, and especially if a coach from another club is calling to recruit them)

Plausible Solution:

You let your child stay in his/her environments that they are excited to be in, and where they are learning and making improvements.

Possible Scenario:

You make sure that your kid knows that they are better than everyone else and talk down about and act superior to other kids on the team that you perceive as lessor. For extra good measure you make sure to organize events outside of the team that handpick only the kids you deem good enough because your kid only can be around the best to develop properly.

Plausible Solution:

You encourage your kid to make the best of every situation and encourage them to learn and be a good teammate regardless of if they are the best player, the worst player, or middle of the pack and create a positive environment by being inclusive of everyone.

Possible Scenario:

You worry about any perceived advantage that other kids are getting in any situation and make sure to point it out to the coach.

Plausible Solution:

You worry about your own kid, and trust that even though other kids may get an opportunity here or there, that with a positive attitude and a work ethic to train on their own, that your child will get to whatever level they are motivated to regardless of what is happening with anyone else’s kid.

Possible Scenario:

You treat your child as a bargaining chip and threaten to leave if your kid isn’t getting treated as something special.

Plausible Solution:

You focus on doing your part to make the experience of youth sports a positive one for your kid, their teammates, their coaches and other parents.

Possible Scenario:

You critique the coach's knowledge of the game, or their methods of developing players. Make sure to do this especially if you've never played past the high school level, and your coach has played pro and go extra crazy if they aren't winning every single championship. Development is great, but what's development if they aren't getting a trophy or medal and giving you some trinket to brag about at the water cooler? You're paying money for this!

Plausible Solution:

You trust that a coach, especially one that has played at a high level, knows what they are doing on the field. You think of your job and how it would feel if someone with no experience came in and started offering suggestions on how to do it and you act with the respect towards your coach with the respect you would hope others would show you in your workplace.

Possible Scenario:

You stand on the sideline and talk junk about other kids on the team. Extra bonus points if you yell negative things at other people's kids.

Plausible Solution:

If you open your mouth to say anything about your child's teammates, you go by the old adage: "If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all." Extra bonus points if you can find the positives and comment on those.

Possible Scenario:

You have your kid play 6 days a week and put so much pressure on your kid by talking about the games all the time. You think what's with all this crazy talk about giving the kid time to be a child and enjoy the game? They are 11 with big scholarships to get! Every second counts!

Plausible Solution:

You let your kid be a kid and not burn them out. You realize that instead of paying for every program under the sun that is offered, in the hope of getting an edge, that the real edge and joy and improvement comes from taking the ball out on their own, watching soccer, and organizing playing with their friends. It's a lot less expensive as well.

Possible Scenario:

After every game, whether your child asks your opinion or not, you give them a detailed list of what they need to do better on the field and how they screwed up. Extra bonus points if you talk crap about their teammates and how some of them are just not good enough to be out there.

Plausible Solution:

You don't give any post-game critique to your kid unless they ask, and if you do, you formulate it in a positive way.

Possible Scenario:

You bounce around from team to team, always looking for something better.

Plausible Solution:

You make the best of every situation that you are in and use hard experiences as an opportunity for growth.

Possible Scenario:

If anything, ever goes wrong, you blame everyone else; the coach, the weather, how unfair the rules are, and make sure to take zero ownership over the situation. Extra bonus points if you encourage your kids to do the same.

Plausible Solution:

You always take ownership and responsibility for your role in every situation and encourage your child to do the same.

(If any of this list strikes a nerve you may need to take sometime to reflect on your current sideline behavior)

Your child's time on the field is short, do your best to make it a time for everyone, coaches, players and other parents, to enjoy.

