

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

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So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

▶ Common Policies

- ▶ We do not discuss positions or playing time.
- ▶ Student athletes must meet with coach first.
- ▶ Student athlete must be present when coach and parent meet.

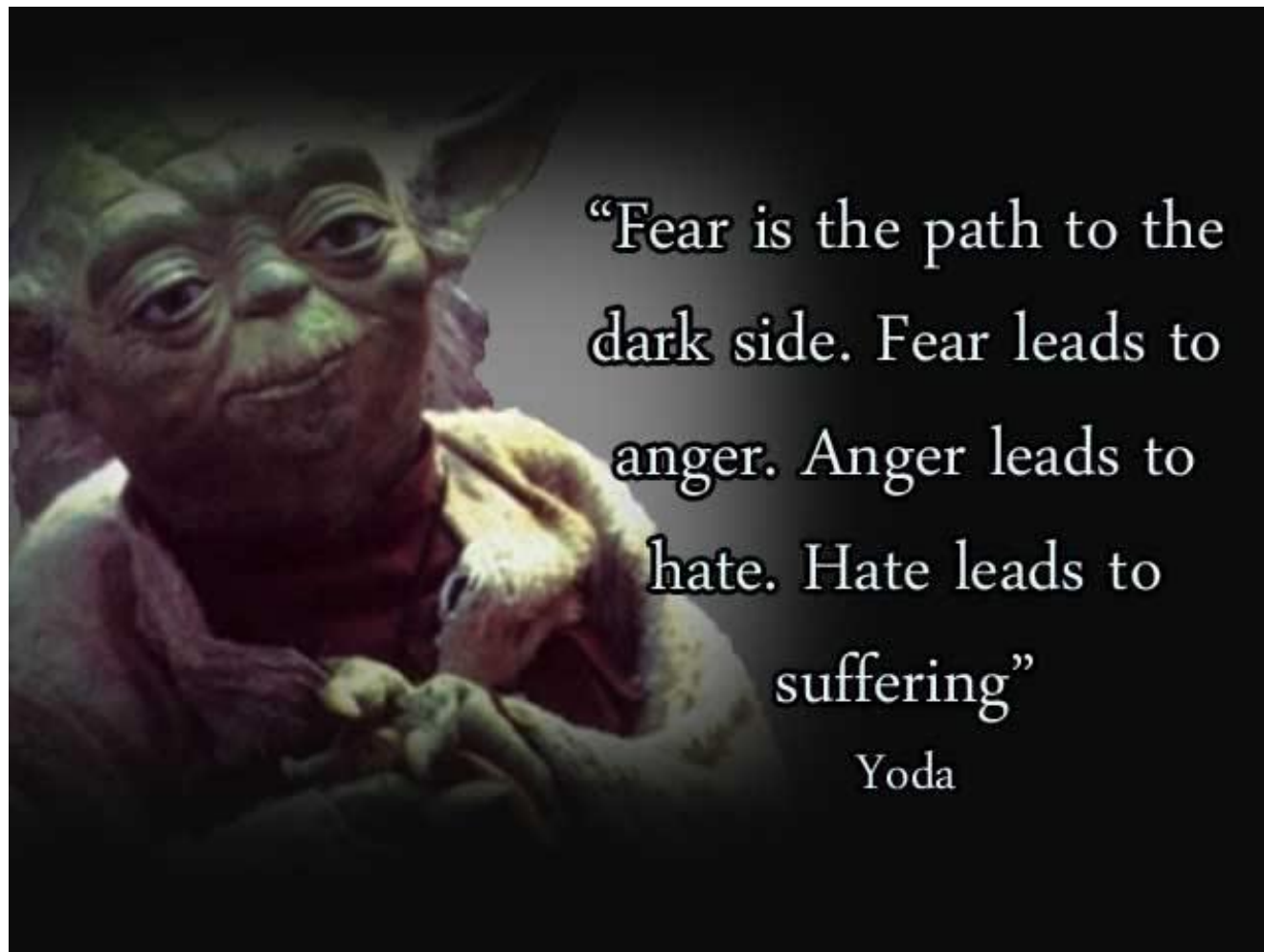
So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

► Reason for these policies?

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

FEAR?

- ▶ Of confrontation?
- ▶ Of having to articulate reasoning/defend decisions?
- ▶ Of losing control?
- ▶ Of losing time?
- ▶ Of altering the parent's perception of their child?



“Fear is the path to the
dark side. Fear leads to
anger. Anger leads to
hate. Hate leads to
suffering”

Yoda

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► Allies or Adversaries?

Pass on what you
have learned.
Strength, mastery.
But weakness, folly,
failure also. Yes,
failure most of all.
The greatest teacher,
failure is." -
Jedi Master Yoda



So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Parents are handing you the most valuable thing they will ever have.
- ▶ Making time to meet to hear the parents concerns is miniscule compared to the trust that they show by sending you their child.
- ▶ Trust goes both ways.

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ “Because I said so”
- ▶ Education based athletics
- ▶ Truly an extension of the classroom
- ▶ Student centered learning
- ▶ More specific feedback

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► Four Keys to the
Meeting/Discussion



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So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ It's going to eventually happen
 - ▶ Parents view of their child.
 - ▶ It's nothing you did wrong.
 - ▶ Accept the reality of the need for the meeting.

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Twenty Four Hour Rule
 - ▶ Good rule of thumb for coaches dealing with players.
 - ▶ Same standard should be held for parent/coach communication.
 - ▶ Emergency or Injury related.

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Address the Concern not the Emotion
 - ▶ Parents will be emotional.
 - ▶ Frame the meeting.
 - ▶ Let it go!
 - ▶ Return the messaging, not the emotion.
 - ▶ Solve what you can without compromising the position or authority of the coach.

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- ▶ Leadership can be a lonely place
 - ▶ Understand that parents won't always agree.
- ▶ Communication is key.
- ▶ Disagreements about the topic or problem will fade.
- ▶ Integrity will remain.

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Team as family should equate to family as team!
 - ▶ Do not push parents aside.
 - ▶ Lead don't dictate.
 - ▶ Gain respect – Difficult right is always better than the easy wrong.

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Parents are sending you their most valuable commodity.
- ▶ Coaches and administrators must be willing to break through the fear or angst of meeting with parents.



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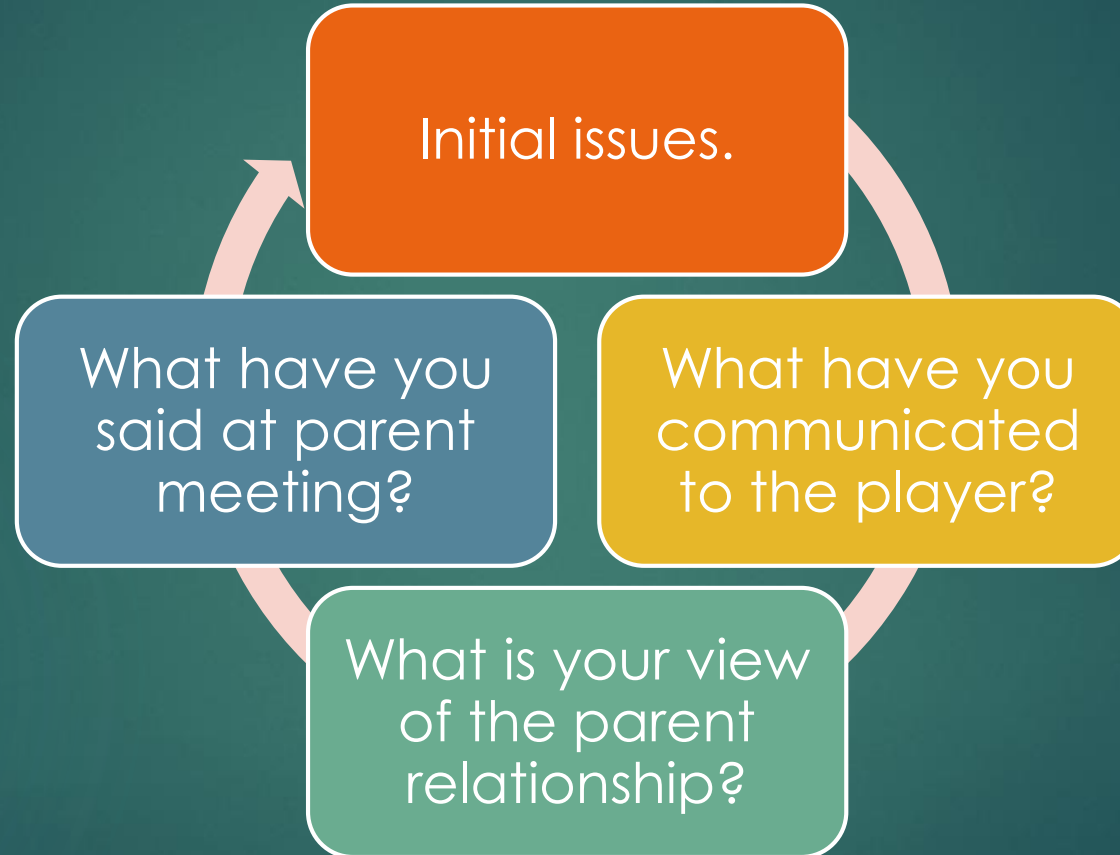


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So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Make parents your allies, not your enemies.
- ▶ Do the difficult right, rather than the easy wrong.

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?



So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Coach says, “I’ll talk to you about anything but playing time. We don’t discuss playing time.”
- ▶ Parent calls and says, “I’d like to talk to you about my son or daughter, it’s not about playing time it’s about something else, but I need to see you personally or face to face.”



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So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

EVERYBODY KNOWS IT'S ABOUT PLAYING TIME !!!!!



So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ So, now what? My Opinion – Don't say "we don't talk about playing time."
- ▶ Why turn an advocate into an adversary? An ally into a critic?
- ▶ That parent has just given you their most valuable commodity in the world and you don't want to talk about it.
- ▶ Goes back to, "What is your view of the parent relationship?"

So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ “Dealing with Parents” or “Involving Parents” makes the difference.
- ▶ <https://www.breakthroughbasketball.com/coaching/stopped-dealing-with-parents.html>
- ▶ Coaching personality, community expectations, school history all play a part in the “discussions” coaches will have.

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Player Questionnaire

1- 2 players you would be comfortable talking to about team matters

2 – 2 players you like playing with, who should start?

3 – Rank all players 1-15

4 – What do you see your role on the team being this year?

5 – What can I do as your coach do to make you better, what do you need from me?

6 – What do wish that we as coaches knew about you, this team, or your teammates?

7 - What are your goals for the season?

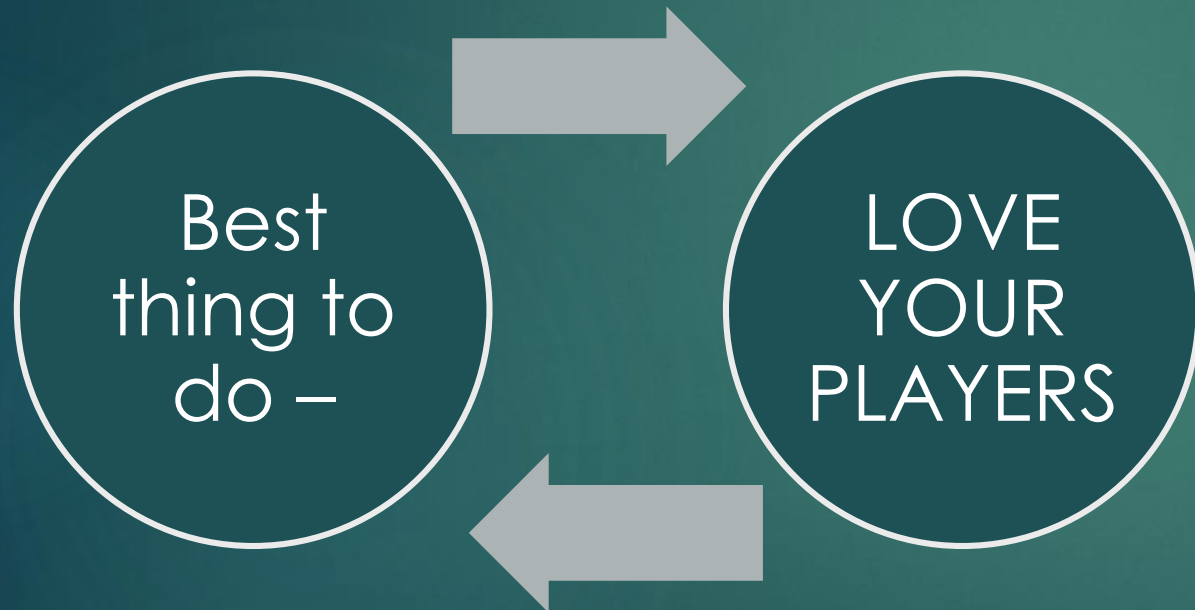
8 – How will you be a leader on the team, improve the team this year?



So You Want to Discuss Playing Time?

- ▶ Parent Questionnaire
- ▶ 1 – What are your goals for your son/daughter this season?
- ▶ 2 – What are your expectations for the team?
- ▶ 3 – What do you want me to know about your son/daughter?
- ▶ 4 – How can you help the team this year?
- ▶ 5 – Is there a word or phrase or something special for you and your child that connects you to the game? Something that we can share to make this a great experience?

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