Sport rage incidents what parents should do

Despite your best intentions, sport rage incidents may still occur.

While it is your club's responsibility to deal with incidents, as a parent you should understand and support the process.

When an incident occurs, you should:

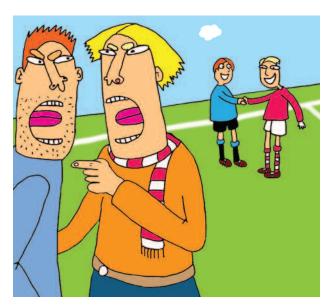
- Report it to the ground official or club committee member
- Stay calm and collected.

When confronted with sport rage, it's important you don't:

- Retaliate or approach the offenders
- Get upset by emotional reactions
- Ignore it and allow situations to get out of hand.

It is the responsibility of the ground official or club committee member to approach offenders and take action.

Clubs/associations should have a process in place for dealing with sport rage.



Kids' comments

For parents, it's a good idea to reflect on what children really want from sport. Here are some typical comments:

'I don't mind if I don't win every time I play - in every game someone has to lose.'

'My dad is great - he just watched.'

'We don't have a scoreboard, but we do have the

'I don't play anymore because mum used to yell

'I don't really care who wins as long as I have fun... although it's good to win at least once.'

'When spectators yell at the referees it's like that

'I feel good when we score a goal, I guess the other team must feel the same when they score.'

Taken from the Central Coast Sport Rage seminar, 2003 and Kids Sport - A Very Real Guide for Grown Ups, Denis Baker



Stamp out Sport rage

Tips for **Parents**







Let's stamp out sport rage

Sport rage is any violence, foul language, harassment, abuse or bad behaviour by players, coaches, officials or spectators of sport.

Simply put, sport rage is bad for children and bad for sport as a whole. At its worst, sport rage reduces a child's enjoyment of sport, risks safety, tarnishes clubs and can lead to drop out.

Sport can do without sport rage. Play your part - stamp out ugly sporting behaviour.

What parents can do

Parents can help create a positive sporting environment and reduce sport rage by being good role models. To do this:

Encourage fair play

- Cheer and acknowledge good plays by both teams
- Thank the official, coach and other team after the game.

Respect officials, coaches and opponents

- Accept decisions by officials they are human and can make mistakes
- Deal with issues in a controlled and professional manner after the game.

Keep your emotions in check

- Be enthusiastic, but don't scream instructions from the sideline
- Don't get into shouting matches with anyone
- Never use bad language or harass others.

Uphold your club's code of conduct

 Understand, uphold and support your club's code of conduct for parents.

Help kids enjoy sport

- Emphasise trying hard and having fun, not only winning
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake.

www.playbytherules.net.au is a great place to learn more about fair play in sport.



Self test: Which parent are you?

The majority of parents do a great job of contributing to an enjoyable sporting environment for everyone. But others could be unwittingly creating tension which contributes to sport rage. Which parent are you?

The Screecher

learn to see the game and make an

The Try Hard

is overly positive, can be embarrassing for their kids. It is also irritating for the coach, Hard must learn to

The Analyst

relive the match with their child and point The Analyst needs to learn to leave the coaching to the coach.

The Wannabe

lives their dreams through their child. game as if it were their own. The Wannabe needs to drop the win at all costs attitude and remember it's not their game.

The Not Really There

is so busy catching up week and talking on the phone that they game. The Not Really remember a little

The Five Star Parent (you?)

effort and not the outcome. They respect and thank the coach, opposition. They are and keep in mind the role they are playing on the sideline.