

Crush parents, players, and families:

There is a wide range of baseball clubs in San Diego, and these clubs all have an even wider range of program goals and expectations. This is why when joining the Crush baseball program, it is crucial to first detail the goals of the Crush program and **what you can expect from us:**

1. We want to offer an environment for our players to play baseball and have fun.
2. We want to teach our players to play the game the right way so that they have success in high school and onward.

I also want to highlight the goals of our coaches:

1. Teach our players good ethics and behavior in practice and in games.
2. Teach our players new skills and further develop the skills that they have.
3. In games, re-emphasize what has been instructed in practice and address mistakes made in the game (be it on the spot, after the game, or at the next practice).

Families that sign up for Crush can expect teams and coaches to strive towards these goals. If it appears that the team or the coaches are doing otherwise, my hope is that we/I are notified and it can be addressed.

Further, by playing with Crush, you are entrusting that we will work towards these goals. You are acknowledging that you will allow us the independence to do so during our allotted practice and game time. If you do not feel like you can give the Crush coaches AND your player the space to practice and play independently of you - even during difficult games or instances of failure - then this program is not the right fit.

Examples of NOT giving players and coaches space during events:

- Talking to them in and around the dugout area.
- Communicating instructions (coaching) while they are on the field.
- Any form of communication with the umpires or the opposing team's coaches.

Crush wholeheartedly supports parents working with their players, and even more so, asking our coaches what they should be working on at home (or even asking us to reinforce what is being worked on at home). However, when it comes to Crush events, the only thing spectators should be doing is cheering on the players and the team in a positive manner. Anything else comes off as either a lack of trust that the coaches can do their job or that you don't spend enough time at home working and talking about baseball with your player - where parent-coaching should be happening.

I began this email by covering the coach and organization goals, and what you can expect from Crush. **Here is what Crush expects you:**

1. Before games: work at home with your players. Spend time talking about the game and points of focus for improvement.
2. During games: be nothing but "a silent source of encouragement."

3. After games: talk about what was done well and mistakes that can be learned from.

Our coaches have been instructed to bench players whose parents or spectators need to be reminded of our expectations.

The expectations above are influenced by the Matheny Manifesto, written by Mike Matheny who was a player in the MLB and is now a coach. (I would like all parents to read the 6-page article [HERE](#)). Quoting Matheny, who said: “The biggest role of the parent is to be a silent source of encouragement. I think if you ask most boys what they would want their parents to do during the game; they would say “NOTHING.”

In my 20 years of playing and now 10 years of coaching, I have seen over and over that successful players almost always have parents and families who act in a way similar to the above Crush expectations. Anything else only adds to the pressure of an already difficult game, and this extra pressure only shortens the length of an enjoyable baseball-playing future.

I am hoping that the Crush program can continue to work towards its goals and the goals of the players. I am also hoping that we can continue to have families that support these goals alongside the expectations of the program.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Nick Carmichael