

Tufts Coaching Study

Dear Families:

Your Little League baseball organization has been selected to participate in an exciting project conducted by researchers at Tufts University. We are conducting this study at your child's Little League to learn about the important role coaches play in shaping the culture of youth sports.

In this study:

- Coaches will be asked to attend a coach-education workshop designed to teach important coaching philosophies and effective coaching strategies. Coaches will attend these workshops at the beginning of the Little League baseball season.
- Coaches will be observed (which includes being video- and audio-taped) during two or three baseball games during the Spring season. Members of the research team will attend those baseball games. Research team members are happy to talk to anyone who has questions, so please feel free to approach us before, during, or after the baseball game. All team members will be wearing Tufts University T-shirts so they can be easily identified.
- When coaches are being observed during the baseball games they will be asked to wear a microphone and to be videotaped. Audio-/video-recording coaches will show how coaches respond to the material from the coach-education workshop they attended, and how they use what they learned while coaching. Members of our research team will be working directly with the coaches to ensure that little disruption to your child's typical baseball game-day experience will occur. In addition, video cameras will be set-up outside the baseball field and will not disrupt the normal flow of the baseball game.
- The goal of this study is to observe coach behaviors during a live baseball game. However, there is the chance that footage of youth baseball players and/or parents will be audio/video recorded incidentally. To make sure confidentiality is maintained, all audio/video recordings captured will be stored in locked offices and on secure (e.g., password-protected) computer servers, and only members of the research team will have access to these video files. Any footage of youth baseball players and/or parents will not be used for research purposes, and youth baseball players and/or parents appearing in audio/video clips to be used in professional settings (e.g., conference presentations) will be de-identified through video-editing software (e.g., facial blurring).
- Coaches are our only interest in this study. As such, our data analysis will encompass coding only those behaviors, affect, and verbiage of coaches. We will not, ever, analyze any of the behaviors, affect, or verbal recordings incidentally captured from youth or parents. Information gathered from coaches will be used to help improve the coach-education workshop and youth sport experience.

If you have any additional questions about this project or your Little League's participation in this project, please contact Dr. Richard M. Lerner or Dr. Kaitlyn A. Ferris (617-627-6729).

THANK YOU!