

Positive Coaching Alliance

NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON GOOD COACHING

CASE STUDY #2 | JUNE 2008

"THE SPECIALIST"

SITUATION

As practice is winding down, Coach Hastings motions you over for a private conversation about your child, who shows enough raw athletic ability to excel. Coach tells you your child has great potential but should specialize as soon as possible, eschewing other sports and training year-round, especially if you hope for a college scholarship for your child. Coach Hastings is a technically skilled coach who has had a number of athletes earn college scholarships.

QUERY

- How do you respond?
- What considerations inform your decision?
- How, if at all, do you discuss this with your child?
- Would your response vary depending on the age of your child?
- Is there a certain age at which specialization makes the most sense?

POTENTIAL ACTIONS:

- Distribute copies to parents at the next youth sports event you attend and discuss.
- Send it to friends involved in youth sports and ask their opinions.
- Write your opinion into the Good Coaching Case Studies blog at www.positivecoach.org/CaseStudies.aspx or send your opinion by e-mail to casestudy@positivecoach.org. PCA will publish all civil responses on our website and in other publications.



www.positivecoach.org

American Youth Soccer Organization
Institute for International Sport
Little League International
Michigan State University Institute
for the Study of Youth Sports
Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.
USA Volleyball
USA Water Polo
US Lacrosse

About the National Conversation

Positive Coaching Alliance and its partners in the National Conversation distribute Case Studies periodically to stimulate conversation among youth and high school sports parents, coaches and leaders about the elements of good (and bad) coaching. If you share our goal that youth athletes receive the best coaching available, help us get these case studies to people you know who are involved with youth sports. Thank you.