



COACHING

9 to 12 year olds

START FRESH EVERY LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON

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Coaches and Managers make sure to start fresh with your Little League team each season.

One of the mistakes that Little League Coaches make in their 2nd year of coaching is to start right where they left off the previous season. Coaches, once you have coached youth baseball teams for a few years you will learn that young players change tremendously season to season. This is one of the most refreshing things about being involved with young players in Little League Baseball and Softball.

Some of them will grow and come back stronger, while others will develop more coordination and speed. Some may return with a completely new attitude, and others may have worked hard on their skills between seasons and come back ready to compete for a new position on the team. You need to know that every player on your team is looking for a fresh start.

Coaches, have fun with this! The first time your team gets together introduce yourself to each player like it is the first time you have met. Tell the team how excited you are about the new season and that you can't wait to see each of them perform. Share your expectations with them, pretending it is the first time the players have ever heard them. Let them know that you are looking for players for every position on the field.



Coaches, assume your players have forgotten everything they know and start your practices teaching and working on the basic skills just like the pros do at spring training. Motivate your players by giving them all a real chance to step up and compete for any position on the field, and remember to give every player on your team a fair share of your time at every practice. Coaches, I think you will be surprised how well your players respond to this "fresh-start" approach. And don't forget, this is also a great opportunity for you to get a fresh start.



Looking back at last season you may want to change a few things. Maybe you were too hard on some players or gave other players special treatment. You may want to be more organized in practices. It might be time to shift your focus away from winning and more toward providing every player with chances to grow. You may want to implement a new approach and take advantage of the strengths of your assistant coaches. You may need to find a better way to work with the parents. You may want to build more fun into the season.

Your players, assistant coaches and parents are all watching you. They hope to see that you too, want to get a fresh-start to the new season. Go for it!
Al Price (Big Al)

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