

OFFICIATING CHILDREN

Children's sport should be FUN! Officials who are involved with children's competitions should keep in mind that:

- the social aspects of sport are highly valued by children
- the focus should be on skill development and individual improvement, rather than winning as the outcome

CHILDREN'S CHARACTERISTICS *(Note: these characteristics may vary among children)*

Children's Social Characteristics	Officials Should
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ concerned with themselves ▪ learning social roles and skills ▪ learning how to cooperate ▪ come from different cultural and social backgrounds ▪ learning how to cope with winning and losing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote cooperation, teamwork and fair play ▪ reinforce the fun aspects of children's sport ▪ provide a supportive environment and show sensitivity to individual differences
Children's Level Of Understanding	Officials Should
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ learning the best way to do things ▪ unable to process too much information ▪ do not do things automatically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ keep instructions short and simple ▪ allow time for children to absorb information ▪ reinforce and praise when something is done well
Children's Physical Characteristics	Officials Should
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ very active ▪ lack fine motor control ▪ have different levels of ability ▪ growing rapidly ▪ less tolerant of heat and cold ▪ children develop at different rates, and there may be both early and late developers in any group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ be aware of varying ability levels ▪ be aware that growth periods will alter the child's coordination and skills
Children's Personality Characteristics	Officials Should
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ easily motivated ▪ wide range of reasons for playing sport ▪ sensitive to criticism and failure ▪ short attention span 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ listen to what the children say ▪ be positive, compliment effort