

Odyssey Coaches' Bill of Rights

Yes, even Coaches have rights!

- 1. You have the right to expect school-appropriate behavior and language from your team, whether they meet at school or not. The rule of thumb is: "If you wouldn't do it around a teacher, you don't do it at Odyssey meetings." If you are a parent-coach, you may wonder how teachers keep their large classes "under control". It's simple: They expect school-appropriate behavior. You should, too.**
2. You have the right to expect your team members to be at their regular meetings. If a child doesn't attend regularly, the whole team suffers. Give them a calendar of scheduled meetings, and expect them to attend.
3. You have the right to expect the parents of your team members to help. You are a volunteer coach, not a genie! You can't be in two places at once, you don't have four pair of hands and you only have two eyes. Let the parents know when you need help, and what you need. They will respond.
4. You have the right to expect parents to share in the cost of creating the solution. How you go about it is up to you, but don't feel obligated to pay for everything. This includes FOOD. When you make up your meeting schedule, include Snack Assignments along with meeting times.
5. You have the right to remove a child from a meeting if s/he is unable to behave appropriately. Find a safe place in the room for the child to sit, and insist that s/he stay there for the duration of the meeting (or such time as seems appropriate to you). Don't leave him/her unsupervised.
6. You have the right (and the responsibility) to call a child's parent(s) if a problem occurs or recurs. Do not let one child (or two) ruin the creative energy of the team. *You* would want to know about *your child's* unacceptable behavior; so do other parents want to know about their child. Don't be afraid to call.
7. You have the right to remove a child from your Odyssey team if all attempts to modify his/her behavior fail and it is clear that the team cannot proceed otherwise. This is a last resort, and should only happen with the knowledge and involvement of the child's parent(s).
8. You have the right to have a life outside of Odyssey, especially during the last few weeks before the regional Meet. You can and should step back from your team and its travails and get some perspective. Is it still fun? Are you taking it too seriously? Don't let *their* problems become *your* problems.

Parent Contract

Odyssey of the Mind™ teams and coaches need a supportive and encouraging environment as they work toward a solution of the long term problem and prepare for the Regional Meet. To show my support for my child's team and coach(es):

I agree not to interfere with or disrupt the team's operations. In the proper spirit of Odyssey of the Mind competition, I agree not to assist with the actual development or construction of the team's long term problem solution. **I understand "Outside Assistance"** and acknowledge that all ideas, creations, inventions, decorations, and handiwork must be the team members' own.

I understand that Odyssey of the Mind **is a long term commitment** and I will ensure that my child attends and participates at each team meeting. If there is a conflict, I will ensure that the coach is notified (in advance if at all possible).

I agree to support the Spirit of Odyssey of the Mind, including good sportsmanship, team cooperation, and proper behavior toward others and in all situations.

I agree to assist and support the coach in creating an environment where my child's team can do their best. I understand that this may include helping at a meeting, providing transportation, providing and supervising Spontaneous practice problems, providing team snacks, and helping at the Regional Meet.

I agree to remember that all teams, including my child's, have worked hard to do their best and are proud of their accomplishments. I will encourage creativity, perseverance, teamwork, and divergent thinking. **I will remember that all Odyssey of the Mind teams are winners.**

I agree to discuss all items on this contract with my child.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Contract

Odyssey of the Mind™ teams and coaches need a supportive and encouraging environment as they work toward a solution of the long term problem and prepare for the Regional Meet. To show my support for my fellow team members, coach(es), and other Odyssey teams:

I will encourage my fellow team members. I will **listen to** and **consider** their ideas and suggestions. I will show respect for the feelings of my team members.

I will respect my coach(es). I will remember that all coaches volunteer their time to help me and my team work toward our solution.

I agree to solve the long term problem with my team members. I understand that “**Outside Assistance**” is not permitted and agree to talk with my coach(es) whenever I am not clear about what assistance is permitted. I understand that all creations, inventions, decorations, and ideas must be my team’s own.

I will be supportive of other Odyssey of the Mind teams and team members. I will remember that good sportsmanship and proper behavior is expected of all Odyssey team members at all times.

I will remember that if a suggestion that I make to the team is not used, this does not mean that the suggestion was not valuable. It may be used at a later time.

I understand that Odyssey of the Mind **is a long term commitment** to my fellow team members and to my coach(es). I agree to attend and participate at each team meeting and to work toward all team goals. If there is a conflict, I will ensure that the coach is notified (in advance if at all possible).

Student Signature _____ Date _____