

The Odyssey of the Mind 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 OM meetings." If you are a parent-coach you may wonder how teachers keep their large classes 'under control," while your seven team members are swinging from the rafters at every meeting. It's simple: They expect school-appropriate behavior, and so should you.
- 2. You have the right to expect your team members to be at their regular weekly meetings.** If a child doesn't attend regularly, the whole team suffers. Give them a calendar of monthly 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 pairs of hands, and you only have two eyes. Let the parents know when you will be needing help, and '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 also includes FOOD! When you make up your monthly meeting calendar, include SNACK ASSIGNMENTS along with meeting times.
- 5. You have the right to remove a child from a meeting if she/he is unable to behave appropriately.** Find a safe place in the room for the child to sit, and insist that she/he stay there for the duration of the meeting. Don't leave her/him unsupervised.
- 6. You have the right (and the responsibility) to call the child's parents if a problem occurs or recurs.** Do not let one or two kids ruin the creative energy of the team. You would want to know about **your child's** behavior, and so do they. Don't be afraid to call.
- 7. You have the right to remove a child from your OM 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 child's parent's knowledge and involvement.
- 8. You have a right to have a life outside of OM, especially during the last few weeks before the Regional!** (This will be news to some of you!) It's true - 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? Are their problems becoming **your** problems? Do you want to "win" more than they do?

Our advice: **GET a life!**

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND STUDENT-PARENT CONTRACT

_____ has become a member of an OM team. In order to ensure that parents and students understand the responsibility and commitment needed by each OM member, please take the time to read over and sign this contract with your child.

STUDENT CONTRACT

Students please write "yes" or "no" in front of each item.

___ I realize that no OM problem has only one solution, and that a successful team is one which cooperates by considering EVERYONE'S ideas. I will not criticize anyone's ideas.

___ I agree that my behavior at meetings will be constructive. If it is behavior that is not appropriate in school, it is not appropriate at an OM meeting.

___ I agree to cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.

___ I agree that all solutions, 'including props, costumes, signs, etc., will be made completely by me or a member of my team. I realize that if there is any part of our solution that the team cannot complete without assistance, we must redesign that part of the solution.

___ I understand that, at the meet, only 5 team members may present the long term solution. Each member of the team, however, shares the responsibility of having solved the problem.

___ I understand that the Michigan OM program recognizes all teams that bring a solution to the tournaments are considered "winners." I agree to show other teams the utmost respect and good sportsmanship.

Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT CONTRACT

___ I agree, in the proper spirit of OM, not to interfere with the team's solutions. All creations, inventions, decorations, ideas, must come from the team members.

___ I agree to make every effort to have my child attend each meeting. If there is a conflict, either my child or I will notify the coach(es). I understand that each team member is critical, and I will see that my child honors his/her commitment to the team.

___ I realize that my child's coach(es) will be contributing a significant amount of time and effort to provide a rewarding experience. I can help ease the coach(e)s' time commitment by providing snacks when it is my turn, occasionally driving team members on supply runs, and being punctual when dropping off or picking up my child from meetings.

___ I agree to discuss all items listed above with my child.

Signature _____ Date _____

