

Playing by the Rules

Character Skills

- Fairness

SEL Skills

- Self-Management
- Responsible Decision-Making
- Social Awareness

Academic Skills

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Effective Problem-Solving

Activity

Read the story below and use the questions below to discuss fairness with your students.

Discussion Questions

- What's the lesson of this story?
- What sport or game do you like to play? What would it be like if you changed a few of the rules?
- What's one rule at school or at home that you disagree with? Why is it unfair? Why do you think the adults have made this rule?

Story: New Rules

One afternoon when the coach was sick, the baseball team decided that they were tired of baseball. They were tired of waiting to bat and taking turns playing outfield and just standing around. One player suggested they make new rules.

“How about a rule that you can bat whenever you want?”

“Then we need to get more pitchers.”

“Good! Whoever wants to pitch can pitch.”

“Yeah!” another said. “More pitchers and batters will be more exciting for the fielders because there will be more hits and they won’t have to wait so long for something to happen!”

The game was a disaster. There was still only one home plate, so the extra batters had to bat off to the side, and the pitchers had no plate to aim for. The pitchers pitched all at once, so the fielders didn’t know where to look. They bumped into each other going after different balls. When the runners tried to run around the bases, they bumped into each other and knocked each other down. The third baseman had to decide between catching a fly ball and catching the throw to him from the first baseman. He missed both.

Definitions

Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded; listen to others
- Don't take advantage of others

Self-Management

Regulate emotions, attitudes, and actions, and resist negative emotions and impulses

Responsible Decision-Making

Make decisions based on rationality, ethics, and effectiveness

Social Awareness

Assess the feelings of others and be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others

Critical and Creative Thinking

Acquire, remember, understand, and apply knowledge

Effective Problem-Solving

Make rational, ethical, and effective decisions to find the best solutions to problems

These materials are presented by:



The Robert D. and
Billie Ray Center

2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311
Phone: 515-271-1910
Email: raycenter@drake.edu
TheRayCenter.org
CharacterCounts.org

CHARACTER COUNTS! and Pursuing Victory With Honor are housed at The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. As a global initiative that transforms lives and strengthens communities, CHARACTER COUNTS! supports our mission to improve civility through character development and ethical leadership.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are trademarks of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.



The Robert D. and
Billie Ray Center