Why Didn’t My Kid Make the Team?

**A player may not make a specific team she is trying out for due to many things.**

**Below, experienced volleyball coaches and directors share many of the reasons they have encountered over the years:**

* **Skill set:**Your player is quite simply not ready for the specific level he or she is trying out for. Can your daughter play at this level? Can your player pass, serve and attack at this level?
* **Maturity:**The maturity of players can sometimes factor into the selection process. Is this player a first or second year? Keep in mind that some of the players she’s competing with have been playing for many years.
* **Fit:**Some coaches look for a specific type of player, role or skill set when determining their roster. How will that player fit with the chemistry of the team?
* **Volleyball sense:**A big concern for many coaches is “volleyball sense” or “volleyball IQ.” Does your player understand, think and read the game? This aspect of his or her game can be a major factor in determining if player makes the team.
* **Development:**A coach can sometimes weigh the option if a player might be better off playing on the team at the lower level then what they are trying out for (Local or House). This will sometimes allow the player to be a top-line player instead of the ninth or tenth player on the higher-level team. This will allow that player to develop and see more court time in critical situations during a match.
* **Parents:**This does not happen too often, but it’s been seen by a few coaches and parents over the years. What are the player’s parents like? Will they be an issue all season? Are they high maintenance? Do they get in the ear of other parents and try to get on their side if they don’t like the way their child is being coached or handled? I can tell you a bad parent or parent group can ruin the season for the players and staff. No matter if your team is in first place or last place, the season will be a success if your player develops, has fun and the parents get along—rather than form cliques and small groups of “negativity.” It’s a volleyball game…enjoy it!

These are some of the reasons on why your player did not make the team. We do believe it is imperative that a coach has great communication skills; it is the key ingredient for a coach when tough decisions are made however it’s very difficult to have one on one meetings with each athlete that doesn’t make a team when there are so many players trying out for a particular level.

To be totally honest, yes, coaches make mistakes. There is no exact science. It is not because the evaluators (coaches) did not give each player a good, honest look. Players do develop differently and at different points during the season.

Volleyball is a great, fun game. So please allow situations like this to be a life lesson for your player. We all get cut, we all get fired. We are all told at some point in our lives that our services are no longer needed. Sports are a microcosm of life—life will go on if your player did not make the team. Let your player enjoy the game and play at a level that will allow her to flourish and want to play again next season.