Scenario 1

A parent has just told you that your assistant coach of 10 years has made inappropriate advances toward his child, who is a member of your team. You have known your assistant coach for many years and have never heard, or even suspected any unprofessional behavior on his part. What should you do?

I would talk to my assistant coach in private and listen to his side of the story. Then, I would talk to the child in private and listen to their side of the story. I would also get the athletic director involved. If the assistant coach did act unprofessionally toward the child, I would fire him. If there is no problem, I would keep a closer eye on the assistant coach. If another accusation arises, I would let the assistant coach go. If the child feels uncomfortable or unsafe around the assistant coach, I would ask the assistant coach to leave. The athletes should feel safe and comfortable around the coaches.

Scenario 2

After practice one day, you witnessed the head coach slap one of his players. You were the only one to witness it and no one knew you saw it. Several days following this, your principal calls you into her office and tells you that the parents of that player just left her office filing a report that the head coach had slapped their child. The principal asks you if you witnessed it happen. What do you do?

Hopefully this situation would be avoided, because if I witnessed the head coach slap one of the players, I would report it immediately. However, if this situation did occur, I would tell the truth and explain that I did witness the event and accept the consequences of not reporting the event initially.

Scenario 3

You have an athlete that constantly pays more attention to the instructions in the stands, provided by his/her dad. Even during timeouts and dead ball situations, you notice him/her looking up in the stands. How would you handle this?

I would ask the player to come talk to me in my office one day before practice. I would explain that I have seen them looking at their dad frequently during the games and ask them why this is so. I would listen to what they have to say and address any issues or concerns they have. Hopefully, we would be able to come to an understanding that I am the coach, not their father.

Scenario 4

Following a game, an upset parent approaches you as you and your team are headed to the bus. He demands that he speak to you alone. How do you respond to this?

I would agree to meet him in my office the next day or on Monday if this occurs after a Friday or weekend game.