

HOW TO DEAL WITH PUSHY PARENTS

The key is to tackle the problem right at the start of the season. Hold a meeting for parents and do the following 8 things.

An 8-point strategy for handling parents

1. Hand out a **sign-in sheet** and get parents to give you their cell numbers and email addresses.
2. Tell the parents a bit about yourself. Include your **coaching background** and qualifications.
3. Explain your **coaching philosophy**. How you will develop players' skills and use discipline? Sell your concepts and big ideas to them.
4. Tell the parents how you (and they) are going to **measure the team's success**. How will you define "winning"? In terms of games won/lost? Or the number of smiles on your players' faces? Or both. Be specific.
5. Codes of Conduct. Parents need to buy into your **standards of behavior**. Make sure your parents know they must not yell instructions or criticize players or officials. Establish the rules.
6. Tell the parents how you will **keep in touch** with them during the season. If you choose SMS or email, make sure you have the right details on file.
7. Fundraising. Get them involved. Ask for two or three parents to form a **fundraising committee** and set a date for their first meeting. This brings parents into the process, meaning they're less likely to criticize.
8. Questions/answers - make sure everyone can give their **feedback** or air their grievances now rather than later.

Once you've set up a process like this, you'll be surprised at how much easier it will be to get along.

And if you're getting criticized for WHAT you're teaching in the sessions, it might be useful to have tried and tested drills, where you can SHOW the parents the expert strategies you are using