

Pre-Season Parent Orientation Meeting

Introductions (5 minutes)

- Introduce yourself and any assistant coaches.
- Give a little background about yourself, why you're coaching, your experience in the sport, what you do for a living.
- Let parents know what qualifies you to coach and why they should trust you in taking responsibility with their sons or daughters.

Coaching Philosophy (20 minutes)

- Present a brief overview of your coaching philosophy.
- Refer parents to Team Handbook. Be sure to discuss at least the following:
- The benefits their athletes are likely to receive from participation in the sport.
- The methods you use to teach skills and values. (Describe a typical practice)
- The emphasis you give to sportsmanship vs. winning, having fun, and helping athletes develop physically, psychologically, and socially.
- Have parent's review and sign pre-season agreements

Performance Demonstration (15 minutes)

- Prepare a short demonstration or explain the skills, scoring, and rules to parents (especially if they do not know much about the sport)
- Emphasize safety when talking about necessary equipment and rules.

Potential Risks (5 minutes)

- Emphasize the potential risks of participation. It is your duty to inform parents of the inherent risks. They must make informed decisions about their child's participation.
- Be sure to be specific about the dangers of your sport.
- Keep discussion upbeat by telling parents about your precautions you will take to minimize the risk of injury.

Sport Program Specifics (15 minutes)

- Describe the program you will be conducting.
- How much time will their sons or daughters practice daily/weekly?
- How often and when does the team practice?
- How long is the season?
- How many games/competitions/tournaments will there be? Are cancelled contests due to weather rescheduled?
- How do you decide who plays?
- Is there any team travel involved? If so, how are the expenses paid?

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- What equipment does each athlete need to purchase?
- Where is equipment available, and how much does it cost?
- Are there scholarships available for athletes that have limited financial support?
- Are there any insurance requirements?
- How do you want parents to communicate with the coaches?
- Are physicals required for players to compete?
- Who decides when an athlete is ready to play following an injury?
- Are there special instructions for pre-game meals?
- What can parents do at home to facilitate the child's physical development or learning of sport skills?

Player and Parent Pre-Season Agreements (15 minutes)

- In addition to agreements identified by the coach, the parents can provide the following:
 - Be supportive of your child's participation on the team, but don't pressure your child.
 - Keep winning in perspective, and help your child do the same.
 - Help your child set realistic performance goals.
 - Help your child meet his or her responsibilities to the team and the coach.
 - Inform the coach of any medical or physical ailments that your child may have that may affect performance or health immediately.

Question and Answer / Closing Comments (15 minutes)

- Answer questions that have not already been resolved.
- Thank the parents and players for attending and ask for their cooperation and commitment during the forthcoming season.