



Suggestions for a successful Parent meeting

As you prepare for your parent meeting it is important to remember that they are just as much a part of the team as the players. They have different roles and responsibilities but it is a mistake to exclude them from the team.

As the head coach you are like the CEO of the team. You need to set the vision and philosophy for the season. You need to make sure everybody understands what their roles are and where they fit in to the team. Coaches that excluded the parents or simply ignore them are asking for trouble. This meeting is the most important meeting of the season.

Here are a few tips to help you with the early season parent meeting:

- 1) Acknowledge the parents as members of the team and share with them the important role they will play as members of the team.
- 2) Share your vision for the team and ask them to help you accomplish the overall team goals. You need their support all season long if you are going to be successful.
- 3) Tell them what you believe in and why that is important for them and their child.
- 4) Discuss your “play of players” philosophy or rules so that there is no misunderstanding as the season progresses. The easiest way to deal with this is have an “everybody plays all the time” or what I would term, “No Short Bench” policy. Whatever you say in the fall you need to do all season long. If you break your word your credibility is gone.
- 5) Explain clearly what the team rules are start with have fun”. The fewer rules you have the easier it is.
- 6) Explain to them how and when you want them to communicate with you if they have an issue that they feel needs to be resolved.

Items two are three are the heart of the message. Be sure you can articulate a vision and be clear in what you believe to be the important benefits of their child playing on the team. If you can communicate these messages you will find that the parents will get behind you and help you all season long.