

# Engaging Effectively with Parents



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## Sample - Coach's Guidelines for Pre-Season Parents' Meetings

1. All coaches are required to distribute copies and address the following:
  - A. Team rules
  - B. Criteria for selecting the squad
  - C. Criteria for earning a letter
  - D. Sportsmanship expectations for athletes and fans
2. Have your parents sign and return the Athletic Policy Form, which indicates that they have received a copy and have read the various policies. These forms should be put in alphabetical order and sent to the athletic director to be kept on file.
3. Other topics which you may want to address:
  - A. Academic requirements for eligibility
  - B. Your coaching philosophy
  - C. Your team's style of play
  - D. How practice sessions are conducted, including:
    - Their length
    - When they normally start and end
    - Why spectators are not permitted at most venues
  - E. An athlete's expectation for attending practice sessions; including Saturday sessions and over holiday periods
  - F. The responsibility for issued uniforms and equipment
  - G. Determinants for an athlete to start and playing time
  - H. Procedures for reporting and attending to injuries
  - I. How and when to contact you (the coach) with a concern or question
  - J. Commonly misunderstood or new rules of your sport
  - K. The risks (injury or death) involved in playing your sport
  - L. Answer any questions
4. Helpful hints:
  - A. Try to make your presentation as positive as possible.
  - B. Don't let one parent take over the program with a "hidden agenda or personal vendetta." Invite them to make an appointment to speak with you individually.
  - C. Find the athletic director, if an issue arises which you cannot answer or is problematic. He will handle it.
  - D. Be prepared. Plan what you want to say and how you want to approach the various topics.

*Credit to: David Hoch and Loch Raven High School, Towson, MD*