

Coach/Player/Parent Meeting

Communicating With Parents

Letting the parents of kids on your team know what's going on and keeping them updated as the season progresses is a key aspect of any successful season. Here's what our hometown hero coaches recommend to ensure good communication with parents.

- Hold a pre-season parent meeting.

Many of the coaches we spoke with emphasized the importance of communicating with parents **before** the season starts to let them know what the coaches' expectations are and to tell them about their coaching styles.

- Tell parents about your coaching philosophy.
- Set the season's ground rules for parents.

Let the parents know what your rules are about player and parent attitude as well as player effort, focus, and participation.

- Explain why parents should not "coach from the stands."
- Talk with parents about player safety.
- Tell parents to come to you at appropriate times with questions or concerns.
- Suggest to parents what type of equipment they should get for their kids.
- Put important information in writing.

Recruiting Parent Support

Almost every team can always use parents to volunteer as assistant coaches or to support the team in other ways.

- Use the parent meeting to recruit volunteers.
- Give parents a specific supporting role for their player.
- Use the league volunteer recruiting process.
- Promote consistency in volunteer style and philosophy.

Checklist for Organizing Your Team

Pre-season organization is a critical element of a solid start to any season. Therefore, we've provided you with a summary checklist of tips recommended by our hometown hero coaches (as well as a few we added ourselves!)

Learning to Coach Baseball

- Read, observe, and search the Internet for good coaching tips.
- Tap into the training resources offered through your league.

Communicating With Parents

- Hold a pre-season parent meeting. At that meeting:
 - Tell parents about your coaching philosophy
 - Set the season's ground rules for parents
 - Explain why parents should not "coach from the stands "
 - Talk with parents about player safety
 - Tell parents to come to you at appropriate times with questions or concerns
 - Suggest to parents what type of equipment they should get for their kids
 - Recruit parent volunteers
- Put important information in writing.

Recruiting Parent Support

- Give parents a specific supporting role for their player.
- Use the league volunteer recruiting process.
- Promote consistency in volunteer style and philosophy.

Before the First Practice

- Check out your team's equipment (usually provided by the league) to make sure it's complete and in good shape so it can be used safely and effectively in your practices and games.
- Check out the practice field you've been assigned and make sure you communicate driving directions to that field to all your team's parents. When you give directions, use the proper name of the school or park where you will practice, not the league "nickname" for that field.. Otherwise, some parents will be confused, especially those who are new to the league.
- Set up an email list for your team so you can quickly and efficiently distribute information like directions to fields or changes in the practice schedule.