



Parent and Coach Protocol

Parent's Responsibilities:

1. **Respect the coach's role:** Recognize and respect the coach's authority and expertise. Understand that coaches have the responsibility to make decisions for the team and the players.
2. **Attend parent meetings:** Participate in parent meetings organized by the coach or the sports program. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss expectations, team rules, schedules, and any other relevant information.
3. **Open and respectful communication:** Maintain open lines of communication with the coach. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, approach the coach in a respectful manner, either in person or through email. Avoid confrontations or disagreements in front of the players or other parents.
4. **Support the team:** Be supportive of the team as a whole. Encourage and cheer for all players, not just your child. Avoid criticizing or belittling other players, coaches, or officials.
5. **Encourage good sportsmanship:** Teach your child the importance of good sportsmanship and fair play. Reinforce positive behavior on and off the field, emphasizing respect for opponents, coaches, officials, and teammates.
6. **Respect playing time decisions:** Understand that coaches have different strategies for managing playing time based on factors such as skill level, effort, attitude, and team dynamics. Respect the coach's decisions regarding playing time and avoid pressuring them to give your child more playing time at the expense of others.
7. **Private discussions:** If you need to discuss a personal matter or sensitive issue related to your child, request a private meeting with the coach. This ensures privacy and allows for a more focused conversation.

Coach's Responsibilities:

1. **Establish clear expectations:** Communicate your expectations to parents at the beginning of the season. Provide information on practice schedules, game schedules, team rules, and your coaching philosophy.
2. **Regular communication:** Keep parents informed about team activities, schedule changes, and any other important updates. Utilize methods like team websites, email, or group messaging apps to maintain open lines of communication.

3. **Respect parental concerns:** Be open and receptive to parent's concerns, questions, or suggestions. Listen actively and address their concerns in a respectful and timely manner. Explain your decisions and provide feedback when appropriate.
4. **Fair and equal treatment:** Treat all players fairly and equally, regardless of their skill level or relationship with their parents. Provide opportunities for improvement and growth for all players on the team.
5. **Encourage parental involvement:** Welcome parents who wish to volunteer their time and skills to assist the team in various capacities. Encourage their involvement in a positive and constructive manner.
6. **Focus on player development:** Prioritize the overall development of the players, including skill-building, teamwork, sportsmanship, and character development. Create a positive and inclusive environment where players feel supported and encouraged.
7. **Maintain professionalism:** Act as a role model by demonstrating professionalism, integrity, and good sportsmanship. Show respect for players, parents, officials, and opposing teams.

By following these guidelines, parents and coaches can work together to create a positive and supportive environment for young athletes. This collaboration enhances the overall experience of the players and promotes their growth and development in youth sports.