**Parent/Team**

* It’s about the journey, the good and the bad, that is what determines the outcome. ..Magic Johnson
* Difficulties in life are intended to make us better, not bitter. .. Dan Reeves
* Experience in Sports is like a hard teacher because it gives the test first, to understand the lesson afterward. ..Vernon Law
* Never let the fear of striking out get in the way of swinging away. ..Babe Ruth
* A life of frustration is inevitable for any coach (or parent) whose main enjoyment is winning. .. Chuck Noll
* As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round! .. Ben Hogan

**Sample Parent/Guardian Meeting**

A pre-season parent meeting is a wise investment. People tend to live up to expectations if they know them. A meeting can help mold the behavior of your athletes’ parents.

The most effective way to have your pre-season parent meeting is in a private setting (such as the home of one of the coaches or parents) where you can have the full attention of the group. If this is not possible, then the meeting could be scheduled before one of the first practices or games when the parents would need to be delivering their kids anyway.

**Welcome and Introduction**: Share how excited you are about the upcoming season and having their children on your team. Share some of your relevant background as an athlete, coach, parent, etc.

**Coaching Philosophy:** Share your values as a Double-Goal Coach. Give them the PCA Parent Letter describing the 3 principles – Honoring the Game, Filling the Emotional Tank, the ELM Tree of Mastery – and talk about each of them. Ask for questions on each before you go on to the next.

Ask for their support in building a team culture (“the way we do things here”) that will reinforce those principles. Ask a “what-if” question: “What if the official makes a bad call against our team? Will you be able to set a good example for the players and Honor the Game?”

Because mistakes are such a motivational problem, share the Mistake Ritual you intend to use with your team and ask them to reinforce it from the sidelines.

Share your policy on playing time, missing practice, etc. Future problems can be avoided by being clear now. If there are playing time rules in your league, specify them. For example: If missing practice means less playing time, let parent know that. Let them know when, where and how, they can contact you (at work during the day, only in evenings, etc).

**Goals and Hopes for the Season:** In addition to goals such as winning games, qualifying for playoffs, etc. Some goals you might want to consider:

* Every athlete will love the sport at least as much at the end of the season as at the beginning
* Every athlete’s skills and tactical knowledge of the sport will improve
* Every athlete will get chances to test himself/herself in game situations
* Every athlete will want to play the sport again next year
* The parents will enjoy the season as much as the athletes

Ask parents about their goals and hopes for the season. This may give insight into the player’ motivation. You don’t have to respond to everything right then. You may think about it and talk with parents later if they express goals that are inconsistent with your values.

**Logistics:**  Make sure everyone has practice and game schedules. Hand out a phone list (or get people to sign up on a list for distribution later). Make sure they understand what equipment their children will need, etc. Leave plenty of time for questions.

**Asking for Volunteers:** Your parent meeting is a good time to ask parents to volunteer for any duties you need help with, such as: team manger (team parent), scorekeeper, bat-a-thon coordinator, team banner designer, etc.

**Sample Parent/Guardian Meeting Agenda**

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

* Coaches background as athlete, coach, parent, etc
* “We’re going to be spending a lot of time together so lets get to know each other”.
* Each person share their best, worst or funniest personal moment in sports

1. **COACHING PHILOSOPHY**

* Our team values – I.M.P.A.C.T. Sports – “I Make Positive Actions Count Today”
* Why is this on our jerseys – Challenge all Parents and Players and Coaches to act on making an IMPACT.
  + Honoring the Game/**ROOTS** of Positive Play
  + **Filling the Emotional Tank**
  + The **ELM** Tree of Mastery
* Dealing with mistakes in competition/Team Mistake Ritual
* Policy on playing time, missing practices, etc

1. **GOALS AND HOPES FOR THE SEASON**

* Coaches Goals and Hopes – Development, Effort, Willingness to Learn
* Second Goal Parent – Leave the Game saying ‘ I enjoyed watching you play today’
* Parent Goals and Hopes -

1. **LOGISTICS ABOUT THE SEASON**

* Practice schedule
* Game schedule
* Phone/Email lists
* Equipment
* Other

1. **ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS**

* Score Keeping
* Rides
* Team – IMPACT Parent
* Team manager

1. **Parent / Player Questions?**
2. **MEETING ADJOURNS**

\*\*P.L.A.Y respectively asks teams to refrain from snacks due to the following:

* Diet/Nutrition
* Allergy/Health
* Economics

**What is a Second – Goal Parent**

A Second Goal Parent is relentless at looking at the Big Picture. They should strive to have their child not only enjoy the sport but learn Life lessons along the way. We have all heard it said, “Sports teach a kid Life lessons.” WRONG? Sports are the tool – Parents and Coaches are there to teach the life lessons.

The more parents can look at the Big Picture rather than just a play, game or season and teach their child the positive pieces of that situation the more the athlete and child will enjoy sports and their effort.

A Second Goal Parent lets coaches worry about the scoreboard, which for many is the First goal. The Second Goal Parent has a much more important role to play: ensuring their child take away from sports lessons that will help them be successful in life. That is the BIG PICTURE.

If you embrace your role as a Second Goal Parent it will change the way you see youth sports and help you to enjoy them much more. Still care about the wins and losses, but know there is more than that going on in the life journey. Sports give you that opportunity as a parent to instill life long lessons. It will help you seize teachable moments and help your child grow.

**Some things to look for:**

* **Failure** for your child or their team – gives you a chance to **teach resiliency**.
* **Tough Competitor or Conditions** – teach how to **approach and enjoy challenges**.
* On the car ride home – instead of telling them what they, their coach, teammates did wrong. Ask these questions to find out what your child is thinking.  
   \* What did you learn from that game/experience?  
   \* Why is it important to bounce back from a mistake or failure?  
   \* What about the game made you feel good?  
  THEN TEACH FROM THEIR ANSWERS, not your concerns. Kids will accept that better.

**How a Second Goal Parent can help me as a Coach?**

Second Goal Parents – WILL HELP Second Goal Coaches – if you are teaching life lessons and put the games in perspective, parents will speak more on ways for their child to improve and enjoy the game. That child will be excited to come to practices, learn, work harder to impress a coach they know is teaching them lessons. If a coach creates a bad environment – many parents will jump on their child or the coach, causing friction and no communication and lack of enjoyment and drive for the game

**Take Aways:**

1. Adults too often get caught up in the Little Picture (performance on the field) and lose sight of Big picture (life lessons to be taken away from the field)
2. Two Goals in Sports: Strive to Win … Build Character (with lessons learned)
3. Second-Goal Parents let coaches and athletes worry about the scoreboard. Parents more important role should be the focusing on teachable moments / life lessons their child can take away from sports.

How Do I **I.M.P.A.C.T. Sports** – parents can make youth athletics much more fun for their child by cheering for all those participating. Making Positive statements about Player- Team-Coach-Officials and Teaching life lessons. Try the 5:1 ratio to enjoy games and youth athletics more. That is 5 Compliments to 1 Criticism and notice the positive reinforcement help your player – team – coach – official and your overall enjoyment of the game. Ask your player as you walk

**GAME DAY SECOND-GOAL PARENTING TIPS**

**How a Parent can help your players/team make the game a life lesson**

Before the Game

* Tell your child you are proud of him or her regardless of how well they play.
* Tell your child to play hard and have fun. ( Let them know it is Ok to be nervous)
* Make a commitment to yourself to HONOR THE GAME, no matter what others do

During the Game

* Let the Coaches do the Coaching. Avoid coaching from the sidelines.
* Fill your child’s (and teammates) Emotional Tank
* Cheer Good plays and good efforts by both teams
* Mention good calls by the officials
* Enjoy the game, don’t stress yourself or those around you.

After the game

* Thank the Officials for their efforts in a difficult job
* Thank the Coaches for their efforts
* Tell your child again that you are proud of them (even if the game didn’t go well)
* Let your child tell you about the game (avoid your post-game analysis, unless asked)

Ask : What was the most/least enjoyable part of the game?

What did you learn from the game?

What if ..

* The official makes a ‘bad’ call against your team ( Honor the game – be silent, help others)
* Another spectator on your team begins to berate an official? (Honor the Game)
* What if your teams, coaches or parents start to get on each other – ( Honor the Game)
* Players start getting very chippy and your child/teammates are in involved – (Honor the Game)

**Team Manager** (previously known as Team Parent) **Duties**

**General Description**

To be an active and supportive member acting as liaison between coaches, players, parents and P.L.A.Y organization. Administratively, this may involve scheduling, monitoring schedules and actively regulating volunteers and volunteer hours.

**Duties**

* Confirm date/time of season beginning Parent and Player Meeting – contact parents
* Create team contact list for parents – players and coaches (include Sport level Director or Coordinator)
* Birth Certificates, Concussion awareness, Coaching Certifications as needed
* As needed, pull game/practice schedules for your individual team
* Gather and assign team volunteers as needed by team or sport. This may include gym or hall monitoring.
* Assistance for team pictures and Tournaments hosted by program
* Communicate with Coaching staff and parents on regular basis – making sure there is open communication lines
* Providing updates on tournaments and plans around tournaments - Brackets, location, nearby restaurants, hotel if applicable.
* Team safety awareness – make sure that things around the game create a safe playing atmosphere
* Sports Culture – sportsmanship, HONOR THE GAME, injured players, safe field/court
* Coordinate end of season party/get together Communicate any suggestions for next year to Coordinator.

**Reporting**

* Tournament or Regular season GAMES
  + send email to Sport Director including, date, opponent, location, PL score, opponent score, issues or injuries
* Incident Report (found on Website)
  + report just the facts, no opinions or solutions
  + should be used in cases of
    - severe or season ending type injuries
    - situations involving any part of the game that was not HONORING THE GAME
* Surveys
  + Encouraging team parents to give their opinions, but to sight specifics if possible
* Gather Volunteer Deposit Checks
  + Once all collected, give to Coordinator or Director of the sport
  + Help those that have not got volunteer time in by contacting Director for needs

**General Tournament or Event Duties**

The actual need of volunteers may vary by sport. Have parents assigned about two weeks prior to Tourney and submit to Tourney Coordinator. Below is a list of some of the volunteer positions, other may be needed for particular sports.

* Concessions
  + No one under 6 yrs of age is allowed to work concessions or be behind concession counter, volunteer must be 16 yrs or older to handle the money, serving customers and working with Concessions Coordinator to help as needed
* Admissions
  + This position collects and counts monies/stamps hand/ monitors in/out traffic
* Gym Supervisors
  + Usually handle at least two gyms/fields, checking on volunteers, make sure refs/umps and scoreboard personnel is secured, safe playing conditions, look for help as needed
* Floaters
  + Available as needed, set up, cleaning up, hall monitoring, scoreboard, run to store

**Example of In-Season Survey/Parents Questionnaire**

**Coaching Questionnaire**

\*Purpose – P.L.A.Y is committed to Positive Coaching ideals. We expect Coaches to be “Double-Goal Coaches” who strive to win and help players learn lessons that will help them be successful in life beyond sports.

**Coaching Purpose**

Those areas of Positive Coaching evaluation and survey are:

* Honors the Game – by showing respect for the Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates and one’s Self
* Redefines “Winner” – in terms of Mastery of the scoreboard by emphasizing effort, learning and improvement and rebounding from Mistakes rather than fearing them. The ELM Tree of Mastery
* Fills “Emotional Tanks” – via positive encouragement so players can players can play their best

Strongly Disagree 1………....5 Strongly Agree

**My Child’s Coach…**

Honors the Game by obeying the rules 1 2 3 4 5

showing respect for officials 1 2 3 4 5

treating opponents with respect 1 2 3 4 5

Redefines Winner by rewarding effort 1 2 3 4 5

helping players learn and improve 1 2 3 4 5

helping players bounce back from mistakes 1 2 3 4 5

Fills Emotional Tanks using positive reinforcement 1 2 3 4 5

encouraged players to do their best 1 2 3 4 5

made the sport fun for my child 1 2 3 4 5

**Would you like your child to have this coach again?**  1 2 3 4 5

**Was the information on the website useful for :**

Registration 1 2 3 4 5

General sport information 1 2 3 4 5

What one item would you change about the program? ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Your child’s gender: Male Female Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Team Color\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Coach Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*you may complete a survey for each coach (Head and Assistants) if you prefer