

PARENT MEETING GUIDELINES

- WHAT?** Each athletic program must have an annual mandatory Parent Meeting. A program wide meeting is suggested, but separate varsity/jv/freshman meetings can be held at the discretion of the head coach.
- WHEN?** Any time after first practice and **before first game**. Choose a date ASAP so that student athletes and their parents are notified well in advance.
- Suggestion - wait until after you make cuts
 - Suggestion - if you have any scrimmages, holding your meeting after a scrimmage works pretty well because many parents will already be there
- WHERE?** At your practice field, in the gym, in the cafeteria, etc. Before scheduling a meeting at our Essex High School or Essex Junction Schools, please check with Property Services (879-5554) to be sure the meeting space is available for use during that time.
- WHY?** This meeting shall be in addition to the fall parent/athlete meeting (if any) in order to improve communication between parents and coaches, and to clarify expectations. Coaches should be the primary communication source for the parents of our student athletes. Parents need to hear from the coaches more than the Athletic Director (or Administrator in charge of Athletics).
- WHO?** Parents and student athletes in all sports should attend. Please represent the meeting as mandatory and encourage everyone to attend. Realistically, there is not much we can do if someone does not show up.

TOPICS TO COVER:

- Review school rules and policies. Each student athlete's parent(s) must receive a copy of the school's policies and rules related to athletic participation (i.e. EHS Athletic/Activities Digest). Please see the Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of athletics for copies of written policies and rules to handout. Please review these policies and rules at the meeting. It is crucial that the following topics be covered:

Academic Eligibility
Hazing
Transportation Policy

Training Rules
Attendance Policy
Discipline Procedures

- Review team specific rules. It is also important to cover any rules specific to your team. Below is a list of suggested topics to cover:

Cut Policy
Sportsmanship
Communication of Athletic Concerns

Playing Time
Award Issuance

- Review Athletic Philosophy (if available). It is important to stress the school's perspective on the importance of winning, the development of character, etc.
- Emphasize the positive. It is important that the emphasis of the meeting be on the **positive** aspects of athletic participation. Parents want to meet their kid's coaches, they want to know that you are good people and that you have their kids' best interest at heart, which you all do. They need to also hear that everything may not happen exactly the way they want it to, and that that is part of growing up. Above all, it is essential that parents understand that you care about their kids beyond what they can do to help the team win, and that you will do what you can to ensure their kids have a quality, rewarding, and enjoyable experience on your team.
- Use other available resources. Please check with the Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of athletics for other tools or resources (articles, etc.) that you may want to copy and provide the parents. If you would like to use some of your own resources, please be sure to run the materials by your Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of athletics prior to presenting.

If you need further assistance with the Parent Meeting, please contact your Athletic Director or Administrator in charge of athletics.