



Pre-Season Meeting or Letter to Team Parents

Ahead of a new season you should be reaching out to your players by way of introduction (if a new team or players), to provide important information about the season as well as to set your expectations and goals for the upcoming season. It is important to have players and parents on the same page in terms of logistics and expectation and also developmentally for your players it can be useful to have parents know what you are trying to achieve.

A Pre-Season meeting or letter to parents will of course be written by you, and in your own style, but this is intended as a template for what you may wish to include:

Introduction

An introduction to yourself, perhaps include a little about yourself as a coach and past experience and any coaches you will have assisting. Welcome the players and parents to the team and give basic information such as team name, assistant coaches, team manager and if you are using an online app to communicate or track attendance.

Roster

Include a list of players on the team. It may also be worth including contact information for each to help parents with things like carpooling.

Website

The Newton Girls Soccer Website (<http://newtongirlssoccer.org/>) is a great source of information for both coaches, parents and players. You'll find information on schedules, field locations, uniform information, field closures, coach / parent education and up to date news on the club.

Schedule

Include any known details about your team schedule, including:

- Practice day, time and location
- Game schedule if you have it
- Any other upcoming team or NGS club events or additional training opportunities
- Potential holiday weekend tournaments

Fields

- Notify parents of where to check on the website for latest field status.
- Remind parents/player of rules and expectations with the regards to the use of fields, including:
 - Positioning of spectators for games (opposite side of team bench)
 - Reminder to pick up trash, water only on turf fields

Expectations and Team Rules for Players

These may vary by team and your own style and approach to coaching, but it is important to set the tone of what you are expecting from your players for the coming season.

Typical expectations might include:

- Arriving on time for practice and games and ready to train/play
- Dressing appropriately, including the whole uniform for game day with jerseys tucked in.
- Long hair tied back, always bring a soccer ball and water to each practice.
- Appropriate notice of any absences or late arrivals.
- Your policy/expectations on conflicts. Some players may be playing multiple sports or on club soccer teams, so you will likely need to have some flexibility here, but be clear about what you do expect in terms of commitment, attendance and communication. If you are coaching a BAYS Travel team you will likely already have ensured all your players are committed and have an idea of what you can expect from them.
- Appropriate conduct during games and practices, being respectful of their team mates, coaches, referees and opponents at all times.
- Remind both players and parents of zero tolerance rules.

Coaching Philosophy and Team Goals

As a coach it's always useful to have parents, players and coach all pulling in the same direction. You want the things you are trying to teach to be the things that are reinforced by parents when they comment on the game or practice afterwards, or when players hear them from the sidelines. So it's worth taking some time to explain to parents what you are aiming to achieve and how you want the team to play. Perhaps follow up throughout the season to keep everyone on the same page. Encourage parents to support and cheer from the sidelines, but try to ensure the coaches are the only ones doing the coaching and players aren't getting conflicting information.

Wrap Up

Thank the parents for their support, encourage them and the players to come to you with any concerns over the course of the season, and of course let them know how much you are looking forward to a fun season!