

# City of Dillon Parks & Recreation



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## COACHES' GUIDE TO THE MANDATORY PARENTS MEETING

This is just a guide to help set up your preseason parents meeting. Starting in the spring of 2005, the City of Dillon Parks & Recreation department has agreed to participate in a program called South Carolina's Promise to our Kids. As part of this program, it is mandated that the coaches have a parents' meeting at the start of each season. We have always thought this to be a good idea and most of our coaches did this any way. This is just an overview of some of the information that we would like you to cover.

### City of Dillon Parks & Recreation Department

#### **Youth Program's Objectives and Statement of Purpose**

- To simulate community interest in amateur youth sports competition in the Dillon community;
- To use youth amateur sports competition as a tool in the healthy development of the children in the Dillon community;
- To help young people build healthy bodies, strong minds, and self-esteem;
- To help young people develop skills and proficiency in amateur sports competition;
- To teach young people the concept of teamwork, pride, loyalty, honesty, courage and patriotism;
- To do all these things while putting the welfare of the children first and foremost, without adult ambitions for personal accolades or glory.

#### **Introduction**

Just a quick overview of the team name, league and league ages to inform the parents whom they are and who they will be playing against.

Tell the parents a little about yourself and give them contact information. Give out as much information as you feel comfortable with but make sure they have some way to reach you.

#### **Practice Schedule Information**

Let them know your plans for practice for the season. Give them the days, times and locations of your practices as well as if you will practice the same or less once the season starts.

#### **Game Schedule Information**

Let the parents know where the games are played, usual game times, time limits on games, if there is an opening day, if there are opening day ceremonies, picture schedule.

The Recreation Department will give game schedules and picture schedules to teams.

#### **Practice/Game Equipment**

Let the parents know what the children should wear to practices-hats, cleats, helmets, pants, protective cup, etc. should they bring water or other items? Let the parents know what the children will receive for uniforms from us and what they must provide. Do you expect the parents to stay for practices or games? If not make sure they have an emergency contacts available.

***Weather/Special Circumstances***

Tell the parents your policy on cold, rain or other items that may disrupt practices or games. Will you contact them if practices or games are cancelled? If you say yes, please remember to do this. This is always something that parents complain about.

***Missing Games or Practices/Discipline Issues***

Let the parents know up front what your expectations for game and practice attendance. This is also a good time to discuss the league's playing requirements, the continuous batting order, regular batting order and three (3) defensive outs. Go over individual discipline philosophies and rules in addition to recreation rules.

***Players/Parent Conduct***

Remind the parents that they have signed a Parents' Code Of Conduct as well as the coaches and we expect everyone to adhere to those principles. Reinforce your expectations for appropriate behavior by children and parents. Remind them both that ejections are enforced and are followed by at least a One (1) game suspension and or possibly expulsions from the league.

***Coaching and Teaching Philosophies***

This is the time to tell the parents how you teach and how you coach. Please be as upfront with the parents on practicing methods, substituting methods and communication methods that you will use during the course of the season.

***Parental Expectations***

Simply ask the parents what their expectations of you as a coach are. A simple question and answer session now should greatly increase communication lines for the rest of the season.

***Other Questions***

If there are other questions pertaining to league or recreation policy that you are not sure about have the parents contact the recreation department until their question has been answered.

