

## Softball Parent Meeting

1. Welcome/Introductions
  - a. Introduce yourself, your experience and your child
  - b. Go around the room, asking parents to introduce themselves, their daughters and their daughters' sports experiences
2. Explain the league philosophy for your age level
  - a. Basic rules, designed to promote learning over winning
3. Explain your philosophy
  - a. It's not about winning at this level. Parents hold onto wins and losses FAR longer than do the kids. Kids want to know what's for snack
  - b. It's about building friendships, about being with a bunch of girls wearing the same color shirt.
    - i. Support those friendships. Carpool. Have play dates after weekend practices. These friendships will last
  - c. Try new things. This is a great environment for the girls to try things they've never tried before, and it's your commitment to provide an environment that encourages that
  - d. Pitching and positions. Along the lines of the note above, EVERY girl gets a chance to pitch at this level (10U and under), and to play catcher if she wants, and first base, and everything else. (I always ask my kids mid-year what two positions they haven't yet played that they still want to play, and I make certain they play them.)
    - i. Tell the parents to be sure to TELL YOU ahead of time if a special family member will be attending a game. This allows you to slot that girl into some prime spots, to be spotlighted in front of that special person
  - e. Playing time is absolutely equal. No two-tiered teams at this level. Play time is spread evenly between infield, outfield, cheering and every other position.
  - f. Keep it positive. (I have eleven positions: the ten on the field and one 'cheering' position. I don't like "sitting out" or "on the bench". I want it positive, and I expect them to pay attention to the game, even if they're not on the field. This way they're still 'in the game'.)
  - g. Teaching the basics of throwing, fielding, hitting
4. Pass around the roster information sheet and get parents to validate information and complete missing areas. E-mail addresses are a must, as this is the prime form of communication
5. (Optional) Describe how you'll be setting up an eRoom on Yahoo and how that works
6. Explain your dugout rules:
  - a. Water only allowed in the dugout
  - b. No gum, no jewelry, no seeds, no siblings...
  - c. No parents – you want the attention of the girls on you, not on Mom or Dad, and that dugout gets crowded

- d. (Optional) The line up board and expectations that the girls know where to go. Teach them responsibility. Also, it is their job to unpack and pack team gear
7. Expectations of parents
  - a. LOTS of communication. Tell you if a girl won't be at practice or game for whatever reason. Games, in particular, because you make plans ahead of time around who plays where when, and it's disrespectful to you and that planning if they don't give you notice
  - b. Pick up and drop off daughters on time. You promise to be on time, so they need to reciprocate
8. Equipment
  - a. Glove (11-12")
  - b. Cleats
  - c. Shorts
  - d. Sliding shorts (10U and above)
  - e. Sliders (10U and above)
  - f. Bats (League-provided. If personal bats desired, know they must be shared and ask for help before buying, as parents can easily waste \$100 or more by buying the wrong bat for a girl.)
  - g. Helmets (League-provided. If personal helmets purchased, roughly \$25 and NOT to be shared – mark them with child's name.)
  - h. Balls
9. Volunteer spots
  - a. Don't leave my house until you've signed up for something...
  - b. (Limit these or add more so that you have one volunteer spot option for every family, so that everyone volunteers for something.)
  - c. (I can describe duties in detail, if necessary)
    - i. Manager
    - ii. Coach
    - iii. Scorekeeper
    - iv. Uniform coordinator
    - v. Snack shack coordinator
    - vi. Snack coordinator
    - vii. Party coordinator I
    - viii. Party coordinator II
    - ix. Photographer
    - x. Assistant coach
    - xi. Assistant Assistant coach
    - xii. Banner-maker
    - xiii. Water person
10. Schedule of practices
11. Be positive! Have fun!