

Parents, Parents, Parents!!!

Parents! Because these parents are paying for their children to play, some feel that they need to have a say about your coaching. Sometimes it is about their kid(s), sometimes it is about your coaching, policies, philosophies, etc. Just a few things about this touchy subject. Number one is that they are a reality. Number two is that even though they say that it is not just for their kid, every parent is concerned primarily with their kid. Again, this is reality! So how to you deal with it? Here are just a few suggestions:

- Make sure that your philosophies, expectations, and policies were communicated up front. This eliminates or at least minimizes a lot of problems. Your policy should focus on player development and fun!
- Put yourself in their shoes. Try to see it from their point of view. Remember that their kid(s) is the best, (not necessarily player) one on the team. It should be that way!
- Repeat to them what they have said to insure that there are no differences.
- Building commitment and developing a team is vitally important. Many children and parents have overstretched themselves with activities. Quite often parents are unwilling to weigh the needs of the groups' goals above that of their own child's and their goals.
- If you don't have an answer or if you are getting upset with the conversation then just tell them that "I will have to get back with you on that". You might buy yourself time to cool your jets and sometimes the problem resolves itself.
- Be honest! Be careful with this one, try to word it in a way where everyone wins.
- Be consistent. Treat every player the same and stick with what you believe.
- Be fair!
- Avoid confrontation in front of your players.