



Early Season Team Meeting Agenda

Parents and Players

Introduction of Staff:

Coaching staff Introduction.

Schedule: Review

A season to remember (have a theme)
Hand out season calendar and review

Coaching Philosophy: (Vision for the team) (Most important part of the meeting)

Fun: positive environment
Good people, good students & good players
Represent our community with pride
Transition from recreational to serious hockey (Bantams)
Individual skill acquisition: Skating; Puck Skills; Concept skills
Team skill acquisition: Application of concepts
Special teams: PP/PK
Control the controllable
Win, lose or draw together. Always together.

Player Rules:

The four Great E s

- 1 Great Effort
- 2 Great Execution
- 3 Great Endurance
- 4 Great Enthusiasm

Always be on time: 45 minutes before ice time.
Be respectful to teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and parents.
Learn your role and play it well
Be responsible for you actions on and off the ice
Team first, me second.
Support your teammates on and off the ice.
Do not take the coaches criticism personally. We are trying to make you better.
Clean up the locker room: Leave it cleaner than we found it.
Equipment: Protective gear: Long gloves or slash pads required.

Church, Family and team conflicts: Discussion

School conflicts and academic performance:

If you need to miss a practice or game for academic reasons skip the game and come to practice. Practice is the beginning and end of excellence. Games are the reward for hard work in practice. Academic performance is far more important than athletic performance.

Team Uniform:

Practices and Games

Tennis shoes/warm-ups/ jacket

Clear tape: practice socks

Season approach:

Marathon: February 15th the real season begins.
Everything prior is getting ready for the playoffs

Invitational tournaments/Jamborees (fun, everybody plays all situations)

District games (Important)

Scrimmage games (Everybody plays all situations)

Playoffs (The real season begins)

Play of Players : Explanation of player utilization.

Team Goal: Get Better every week.

Initial line up. A place to start.

Parents only:

Philosophy expanded:

Positive environment

Airplane analogy ** (see below)

Play of Players; Reiterate

Coach /Parent discussions; Guidelines (association procedures)

First year player expectations (no pressure-They need to adjust to the faster level)

Team Manager

Business meeting.

Parent assignments

**** Airplane Analogy**

Draw a horizontal line on a white board that represents the beginning of the season on the left end and the best possible end of the season at the far right end. Then place a mark at the point where the district play concludes, the district play offs conclude, the regional play offs conclude, and the state tournament concludes.

Then discuss with the parents that the beginning of the season is like taking off from the Minneapolis International airport and heading to Los Angeles (LAX). As a passenger you board the plane, read a book, take a nap and as far as you know take a direct route to LAX. In reality what is happening is that the auto pilot on the plane is constantly re adjusting the flight path. The plane is subjected to updrafts and downdrafts (draw these on the board) and the auto pilot must take corrective action and bring the plane back on course. Most hockey teams will usually will have periods of updrafts and down drafts during the season and the coaches (auto pilot) will be required to get the team back on course.

This discussion then leads into the role of the parents in the success of the season. As coaches there is value in that a good staff can take the team to point X (wherever you indicate on the line above) but to get the full potential from the team the parents need to help. They need to be supportive of the coaching staff and all of the players on the team. Going back to the airplane analogy, we want to surround the team with positive uplift all the time and keep negative downdrafts away from the team.

Mosquito Analogy:

A parent that criticizes in public is like a mosquito bite on the arm of the team. One bite is not bad, but the second and third bite starts to annoy the team. As the bites add up and they are scratched by other parents joining in the bites begin to bleed and then become infected. Eventually the patient (team) gets sick and dies.

The point is that the parents have the ultimate responsibility to create the proper environment for the team (and therefore their child) to have the maximum amount of success their collective talent will allow. There are only a couple coaches on most teams and 35-40 parents. If the coaches and parents are not on the same page the team outcome will be less than it could have been. Parent criticism in the stands, at practice to other parents and in front of their child hurts the team and their own child.

Using analogies to make a point are a fun and effective way to communicate with a group of people. The two analogies above are easy to understand and I have found that parents get the point and they remember. By placing the responsibility on the parents for the final outcome of the season you will find that they will, through peer pressure, eliminate much of the negative energy that can creep into a team during the season.

Good luck.