

## ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PARENT MEETING GUIDELINES

- WHAT?** Mandatory Parent Meeting. I suggest doing it program wide, but you can do separate varsity/jv/freshman meetings if you choose.
- WHEN?** Any time after first practice, after you make cuts, and **before your first game**. Coaches MUST send something home and/or email your parents to inform them of the time and location of your meeting. In winter and spring we will do a MEET THE COACHES NIGHT, so all teams will have their meetings on the same night.
- WHERE?** Locations predetermined for MEET THE COACHES NIGHT winter and spring. You pick your location for fall sports meetings.
- WHY?** In order to improve communication between parents and coaches. Parents need to hear from the coaches about your philosophy, expectations, rules, etc. It's a good way to get the season off to a positive start.
- WHO?** Parents and athletes in all sports. We say it is mandatory and encourage everyone to attend. Realistically, there is not much we can do if someone does not show up.

### TOPICS TO COVER:

- What would you want to hear as a parent from your child's coach? Your philosophy, goals, rules and expectations, communication guidelines, practical information such as game and practices schedules, transportation, fundraising, costs
- Each kid's parent(s) must receive a copy of the Athletic/Activities Digest. See me before your meeting and I will give you enough copies. Basically just go through that, briefly covering each section. It is mandatory that you cover "the big three" - **eligibility, training rules, and hazing**. Make sure you tell them the **attendance** policy as well.
- Beyond that, I would suggest going through the **cut policy, playing time, communication of athletic concerns** and **sportsmanship** sections of the Digest.
- I would also recommend that you talk about the **philosophy** section - our perspective on the importance of winning, the development of character, etc.
- Above all, I think it essential that they hear from you that you care about their kids beyond what they can do to help your team win, and that you will do what you can to ensure their kids have a quality experience on your team.

One final note about the parent meeting. I think it is important that the emphasis of the meeting be on the **positive** aspects of athletic participation. Parents want to meet their kid's coaches, they want to know that you are good people and that you have their kids' best interest at heart, which you all do. They need to also hear that everything may not happen exactly the way they want it to, and that that is part of growing up. I know you will all do a great job, and let me know if I can help.