

Team Parent

Any parent willing to volunteer to assist the coach with Team and Team/Coach Administrative duties. It is usually best to have one main person as Team Mom or Dad so the coach only has to deal with one person. She or He can then delegate responsibilities as needed.

This position is a great help to the coaching staff and helps keep the parents involved with the team. It fosters greater understanding of the T&C organization and the difficult job of coaching. It helps to assure communications between the coaching staff/league and the parents. The better the communication between the coaching staff and the parents usually translates into a better season for all the children.

Responsibilities

Some of the Team Mom or Dad responsibilities are listed below. Remember to delegate tasks as you and other team parents agree and get the agreement of the head coach and his coaching staff as needed. The Head Coach should have the authority to request changes, additions, or exclude duties as needed.

This is a general outline of what the Team Mom/Dad can do to help the team. It is not all inclusive and some items may not apply to your team. Being a Team Mom/Dad has many rewards.

What are the responsibilities of a team parent?

- You may be responsible for handing out forms for a fundraiser. Distribute information sheets (player list, schedules, program books, fundraiser info, etc.).
- All teams differ on this subject. If your team agrees to have an end of season party you will probably be responsible for collecting money and buying gifts for the players and coaches at the end of the season. This is not mandatory, if your team wishes not to purchase a gift for the coach or players, that's okay. You may be expected to decide on what type of team party the team will have after the season. See the notes below concerning team parties. Collecting money from parents and players and buying gifts for the coaches at the end of the season.
- Ask the coach if he needs help compiling a player address, phone, and e-mail list.
- Schedule picture taking date with league POC and remind team parents about picture day and help with paperwork. Pick-up and distribute team pictures to team.
- Call team members to inform them of rainouts, schedule changes, pictures dates, etc. Having two or three people make phone calls is the fastest way to get it done - but make sure everyone gets called.
- Coaches are given rosters at the first coaches meeting. Organize team snack list.
- In some cases the team mom will take up a collection of enough money to provide drinks after each game or assign each parent to bring oranges at halftime and snacks after the game. Make sure you have checked with the parents/coach for any food allergies of the players.
- Ask parents to work the concession stand 1 Saturday for 1 hour only in the season. The person handling the concession stand will schedule teams for duty and contact the manager or coach for their date and time.

What will I get in return?

- You will get to be part of the team. The team mom may receive a team plaque or award just like the coaches.
- You will get the coaches' undying devotion.
- Your child will get to see a real role model in action.

What kind of gift is the team expected to give to the the coaches after the season? (this is optional)

- That varies from team to team, and from league to league. A sentimental gift which reminds them of the team is best. Some of the best gifts are: Plaques with pictures of the team, a ball that is autographed by the players, and a coffee mug autographed by all the team members, or a trophy and/or metal, or a pen/desk set. If you ask the coach's wife or husband most would prefer a gift certificate for a meal at a nice restaurant. And who's to say that the feelings of the spouse of the coach shouldn't be considered since they sacrificed as much as the coach in most cases. Items are available at the concession stand for gifts.

Special Notes.

There is no rule that the team mom must be a female. There have been plenty of team dads in recent years who have done a good job just as there have been plenty of female coaches who have excelled in what was primarily a male coach's role in the past.

Do not let yourself become a babysitter at practices or games or a taxi service for parents who can not get their children to games or practices.

In today's litigious society you should also be sure that you are not alone with any child that is not your own. Always have a second adult on hand.

Stay organized. Be sure to have a calendar available for team dates as parents will often call and ask for time and dates of games or practices since they have lost their own schedule.

If you are giving a hand-out to players at practice be sure to write the name of the player on the top of the page. By doing that you will be sure that everyone gets a copy and there are no questions when a parent later complains that you did not give a copy to their child.

At younger ages it makes sense to place the hand-out or envelope directly in the parent's hands when possible.

YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANKS!!