



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

A guide for youth coaches

Best practices to establish community and promote player enjoyment

1. Hold a Parent Meeting

As part of the Irish FA Youth Framework, we are asking all youth coaches to hold at least one parent meeting a season. This important meeting is an opportunity to establish a sense of community, set expectations, and communicate guidelines regarding sideline behaviour.

Check out the PARENT MEETING GUIDE for coaches!

2. Trust Parents and Work Together

Most football parents are level headed and sometimes stressed. Don't assume all parents are irrational. Open the door to parents and remember the common aim is for all players to feel inspired by their football experience.

3. Encourage Parent Education

When the parents on your team seek education about how to support their child, the player experience may be improved. Parents who are better educated about sport are likely to demonstrate positive behaviours in important moments such as on the sidelines, during the car ride home, and when their child is facing a setback.

4. Get to Know the Names and Football Backgrounds of All the Parents

A culture of mutual respect is key, and getting to know the first names and football backgrounds of all the parents is an essential step!

5. Take Advantage of Brief Interactions

Maybe it's walking to the pitch before a game, or a quick hello after training - don't underestimate the importance of these brief interactions when it comes to establishing trust and community.

6. Set Clear Boundaries

Because the coach-parent relationship is not well defined, setting clear boundaries for when it's appropriate and not-appropriate for a parent to approach you is essential.

Check out the BOUNDARIES GUIDE for details!

7. Be Confident and Trust Yourself!