

The following letter is an example of the thoughts you may want to convey at the beginning of the season. This letter was used for a Majors-Level team. Its policies are more strict and its player/parent expectations are higher than those stated in the other sample letter. It is provided for your reference.

Let's Play Ball!

Hi, my name is _____, the _____ manager, and my coach is _____.

We prefer to be called Coach _____ and Coach _____ by the players. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and starting the season.

I would like to explain a few things I consider important for you, the parents.

1. Support your child's efforts at home, practice and at games. This is a time consuming, wonderful sacrifice you're making for your child. Make sure you do it with a positive attitude. Since you took this step, follow it through all the way.
2. Always be early or on time for practices and games. Our time is limited so being prompt is important. One of the coaches will always be there 10 minutes prior to the practices and games. If you are late picking up your child, I will wait about 10 minutes before taking him home with me.
3. Practices are **mandatory**. This is where your child develops both team and individual skills. I know it will take a lot of advance planning on your part to make every practice and game, but that's what your child and team are counting on. Please schedule trips or events around our schedule as much as possible. I would appreciate a call a day or two ahead of time if you are going to miss a game or practice.
4. Always make sure your child is properly dressed in the complete uniform and equipped for each game, game jersey, pants, socks and belts will be provided. I like all my players to wear cups regardless of their position, but that is their call, for catcher's it is required. Proper dress for practice is about the same (I like long pants, not shorts) without the jersey.

While Major ball is a great place to learn fundamentals and improve, it starts to become competitive. Kids are kids and the better they do, the more fun they will have. Practice throwing and catching everyday that you don't have a practice or game. You'll be amazed at the improvement your child will make and how much fun, confidence and self-esteem your child and you will gain!

After coaching for years, I have realized that I am not going to make all the parents, players and coaches happy all the time. My main concern is for the TEAM'S overall success and enjoyment. I will use my knowledge of the player's

attitudes and abilities, combined with my coach's input, to decide who plays where and how much. I can almost guarantee each of you that your player and even my coaches will be confused and maybe angered by some of my decisions. This will happen. It is unavoidable. It's unfortunate, but a real part of the game. My eyes and ears are always open and any thoughts, concerns or questions you have, PLEASE call me.

I promise to do everything in my power to make this baseball season as fun, educational and exciting as possible. I know I can keep that promise if each parent can comply with the requests I've made here, especially about practicing at home and arriving on time with a positive and encouraging attitude. I feel that happiness and success go hand in hand and both are highly contagious!

Again, please call with any questions. I thank you in advance for your support at home and on the field.

Let's make this a "Season to Remember"
Go Red Sox!!!!!!

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