

THE CHAMPION COMMITTEE

After the preseason meeting, there are always parents who approach the coach and say “Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.”

In fact, there is.

Ask for parent volunteers or invite parents to participate in a **Champion Committee**, a parent group committed to enhancing their sons’ or daughters’ sporting experience.

Members of the Champion Committee are asked to act as ambassadors, reinforcing the values and goals of the program by creating a supportive climate on the sidelines/in the stands.

The goals of the Champion Committee are simple:

1. To create parent intra-group accountability, responsibility, pride, and motivation to create a positive climate that supports Champions.
2. To establish norms for appropriate parent/fan behavior.
3. To uphold these norms when they are challenged by disruptive spectators.
4. To support all the participants and the officials at each game.

The responsibilities of the Champion Committee may include:

1. To create a supportive climate on the sidelines/in the stands.
2. To facilitate communication among all of the parents and coaches.
3. To challenge (with sensitivity) the few parents who may be creating a toxic climate.
4. To work with the coach to identify concrete ways of supporting young players to set and achieve goals, developing caring relationships, and establish ownership within the group.
5. To model the behaviors of a champion, both on and off the field.