

Your first parent meeting should include the following important points. Parents are not allowed to coach or talk to players. Parents instead should cheer and encourage. Let them know that first and foremost. This will knock out most of your parent problems. See if the parents want to work together and form a snack committee or if everyone wants to donate \$20 and you, the coach, get snacks for each game. Let parents know about your fundraisers and ask them to get involved to help out. Make sure your parents know they are welcome at all matches and that they have your contact information. Be up front and honest with them; let them know your philosophy on coaching tennis and how you will rank the team and handle practice; always stick to your practice times. If you say practice is over at 5:30, then end on time. Let parents know you care about their kids. This will go a long way and gain a lot of respect with them. Last thing I always do is tell them we're going to have fun learning about each other and thanks for coming to the meeting.

—Coach Jeff Kinlaw, Lumberton High School