



How to Run an Effective **FIRST PITCH MEETING**

Every Junior Giants league is required to organize a First Pitch Meeting before the season starts. This event provides the best opportunity to gather kids, parents and coaches to explain the Junior Giants philosophy and promote the programs in Character Development, Education, Health and Violence Prevention. The meeting will ensure that all players and parents begin the season with the same understanding that Junior Giants is much more than just baseball.

Below is a checklist to plan your First Pitch Meeting:

- Make the First Pitch Meeting mandatory to ensure all parent show up and start the season on the same page. Have the date available to distribute to parents during sign-ups.
- Hold the meeting indoors (ideally with air conditioning), in order to provide a controlled environment.
- Invite community “experts” in Education, Health and Violence Prevention to give short presentations.
- Show the Player/Parent DVD to players and parents.
- Distribute Player/Parent Handbooks.
- Define Junior Giants as a well-rounded program that includes Character Development, Education, Health and Violence Prevention.
- Walk the parents through the Handbook and discuss in depth the programs in Character Development (Take Me Out to the Ball Game cards), Education (Round the Bases Reading Program), Health (Nutrition Magnet & Poster) and Violence Prevention (Imagine Peace Contest & Peace Pledge).
- Review and implement the Peace Pledge. *Please see Violence Prevention Checklist.*
- Separate the kids from the parents and engage them in the Imagine Peace Contest. *Please see Violence Prevention Checklist.*
- Recruit team parents to assist in the Education, Health and Violence Prevention programs.
- Emphasize the importance of having parents participate in their child’s season (e.g., attend child’s games, read a book together, etc.).
- Distribute shirts and caps to get higher attendance.