

Updated November 2008

## **RHS Parent Rep Functions**

The primary function of the parent rep is to be a liaison between team/club coach/sponsor and parents/students to assure that there is accurate and timely communication. In order for the role of rep to be effective, there must be close communication between the rep and the coach.

Several years ago, the RHS Swim and Dive Team incorporated a team rep into their activities and found it a resounding success. One of the reasons this relationship works so well on the Swim Team is that it is a natural carry-over from summer swim team, where coaches and teams have used the concept for years and are absolutely dependent on parents for help with stroke judging and lane timing. In other school sports or clubs at Rockville, there have been mixed results depending on the dynamics of the people involved and the immediacy of the needs.

The concept needs and has the support of the Principal and RHS Athletic Director. They are working with coaches and club sponsors to get buy-in from those sponsors where possible. However, the parent rep should be a suggestion rather than a mandate. We must also remember that High School is a time to be developing leadership and responsibility in our teens. To that end, the parent reps should include team member input as much as possible. The rep can facilitate and do things the kids cannot, but should not be unilateral in their decision-making processes (e.g. a team event that a parent tries to plan but the kids have no input nor interest in will not build team spirit!)

There are some coaches who will appreciate parent help, and some who won't. Therefore, the following items are those that a rep may perform, at the discretion of the coach.

1. Start of season kick-off meeting for parents to provide information, introduce coaches, recruit volunteers (to assist at meets, practices, discuss special events, etc.). Also, the rep could help advertise the start of the season to students, by coordinating posting of signs in school, announcement to RamsNet, etc.
2. Assure timely and accurate communication, such as in establishment and maintenance of email network/phone tree and creation of a team calendar. Rep would broadcast relevant messages from coach concerning game/practice changes, carpooling coordination, etc. This may also be done via the rep delegating to the team captains.
3. Help organize and communicate special team-building events. For example, swim team has several special events, which have really brought the team together, such as a Friday night Lasagna dinner (also fund-raiser), pre-meet pancake breakfasts, after-meet lunches, bowling, movies, end-of-season recognition dinner, etc.
4. Act as liaison with community (within and outside of RHS). This might include providing updates for school website, providing results to administration for morning announcements, keeping the ramsnet listserv coordinator updated about events, coordinating community publicity about events (sports calendar posters at Safeway, Outback, Leisure World, etc.).
5. Find out what the coach needs help with and then get parents of the players to step up and provide that help, such as following functions:
  - providing post-game snacks
  - trips to other games, events (such as U of Md.)
  - video-taping of games/meets/club events
  - maintaining game stats
  - creating or helping with programs/roster sheets for games
  - assistance at games or practice, such as ball boys/linesmen, timers, judges

off-season training sessions or camp coordination  
recruitment of players/promote try-outs

6. Encouraging maximum participation in RHS Booster Club. Every parent of the team should become a member at the start of the season.

7. Organizing special recognition for graduating seniors, which is reimbursable from the RHS Athletic Director up to a reasonable cost. Examples of reimbursable items are balloons, cake, senior photos, paper goods, utensils, etc.

8. Anything else they or the coach/sponsor can think of that would allow more time to be spent coaching!