All,

Now that we are about to start playing real games, I wanted to take a few moment to go over several important topics/rules that need to be followed and to clarify a few “philosophies” on this team.

* **Philosophy at St Jerome**: This season is only a small part of what we do. Seasons do not define us. We play the long game, meaning our goal is to get our 8th graders ready to play at the next level and in a program that matches both their academic and athletic goals. If you treat every game like the end of the world….we are probably going to have issues. Sit back, enjoy the ride and try not to over-analyze everything.
* **Playing Time**: This is not an equal playing time situation. We have a team of 11…with a good balance of 6th/7th and 8th graders. Balance of time will always tip to the 8th graders. Again, if you do not trust our process and look long-term, we will probably run into problems.
* **Parent Behavior at Games**: There is a zero tolerance policy for bad behavior from our fans. We have a great reputation at St Jerome and people are always watching what we do and how we conduct ourselves. Yelling at the refs, opposing teams, or even berating your own child should be kept within respectable limits. Please make special note that any yelling directed toward our coaching staff during games will only happen once…be advised.
* **Coaching from the stands**: Each year we have a problem with players who will look to their parents in the stands after everything they do. It is pretty simple…if our coaches are communicating one thing to a player and parents are telling a kids something opposite..**OR**..we feel like a player is paying more attention to the stands than our coaches, they will be on the bench.
* **Meetings with the Coaches**: I am always open to meeting with parents to discuss concerns but that has to be scheduled. Please do not approach me before or after games to discuss any concerns you may have. I will not discuss playing time concerns or in-game strategy with parents. I will gladly discuss player development and high school recruiting. Call me, let me know of the concern and we can schedule a time to talk about it.
* **Game Uniforms**: Some of our games will be officiated by HS level refs who will enforce HS level uniform rules. *Any player who wears a shirt under their uniform must have an undershirt that is the same color as the jersey. This means you should have a royal blue and white undershirt in your bag to bring to every game*
* **Leggings and Compression Shorts:** If leggings or compressions shorts are worn that extend beyond the uniform, they must all be the same color. HS federations allow for white, black and gray. Since this needs to be uniform across the team….*We always go with BLACK only for compression and leggings.*
* **Entry Fees:** Many of our tournaments and showcases have an entry fee. Sometimes I know ahead of time, sometimes I don’t. Always carry cash…..best policy : )
* **Be On Time for Games:** It is very important that all players try to get to games at least 30 minutes before tip-off. If you are running late, text me
* **Stay current with the Schedule:** Please check the website often to stay current with our game and practice schedules.