

Coaches' Tricks and Tips

Posted by Jeff Horvath, August, 2008.

The Randall teams have had some luck in getting PTO grant money to help support the teams the past two seasons, though there have been some "lessons learned" along the way (i.e., I haven't been able to use the funds all the time), so I thought I'd share some of the best-ish practices that I've learned. Maybe it will help some other teams :-)

- The grant application process is out of synch with the FLL season. We start right away and the application process doesn't begin until the fall some time. However, you can get reimbursed any time until the following June or July if you have receipts. So, the key is to save all your receipts, apply for the grant, and if you get it... then turn in your receipts.
- You can only get reimbursed for the actual things you applied for. So, if you have money left over that you didn't use, you probably can't use them for something else. So, be sure to list everything you think you might need. Then, you can use the funds wherever you need them.
- One strategy that I'm going to try this year is to list a number of things - costs of one full team attending the state tournament, a bit for scholarship funds/league support, maybe a used laptop for the team to have, some extra flash drives... and see what I get. The idea is that if we get enough funds and don't end up using them all, we can direct the remaining funds to the scholarship fund/league to support the overall effort.
- Also, if any families choose not to get reimbursed later on, those funds could get sent to the league as well. The key is to allow yourself some flexibility in how you allocate the funds.