

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.

As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication You Should Expect from the Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all of the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, etc.
5. Criteria for awards that will be presented at the end of the season.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at *Schoolname* High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you had hoped s/he would play. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and for all of the individuals involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following items, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These interactions are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach, Please Follow This Procedure:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please call *ADname*, the *Schoolname Athletic Director at 414-000-0000, ext. 1234*.
3. Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. These types of confrontations do not promote a positive resolution to any concern.

What to Do if a Parent/Coach Meeting Does Not Resolve the Issue

1. Call and arrange an appointment with the Athletic Director to resolve the situation.
2. At the appointment it will be determined if further action is necessary.

Research indicates that a student involved in interscholastic athletics has a better chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope that the information we have provided will promote positive communication between parents and coaches and make your experience with interscholastic athletics less stressful and more enjoyable.