

Parent / Athlete / Coach Communication Guide

Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur. The school athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff. For our programs to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

Your Expectations

- A. It is reasonable to expect** your child's coach to inform you:
1. When and where practices and contests are held.
 2. About the expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad as well as your individual Child.
 3. The requirements to be a part of the team.
 4. If your child is injured during participation in a practice or contest.
 5. Whenever any disciplinary action results in your child being denied participation
- B. Typical concerns of parents that are appropriate** to discuss with a coach are:
1. Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home (especially when it affects his/her academic performance).
 2. How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
 3. Any dramatic changes you detect in your youngster's behavior.

Our Expectations

- A. It is not inappropriate** to discuss with a coach:
1. Playing time.
 2. Team strategy or play calling.
 3. Other student athletes.
- B. Coaches often need** parents to tell them:
1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
 2. Your commitment to the program, and how you plan to make a contribution to the program's success. For example, one way is to be sure your youngster is at practice each day on time and to supervise that your child gets enough rest and nutrition at home.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, What procedure should you follow?

1. Remember the **“24 Hour Cool Down Period”**. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or following a contest or practice. These can be busy and emotional times for both the parent and the coach and this period does not promote objective analysis of the situation. Make an appointment the next day.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director to set up a meeting
3. What should you do if the meeting with the coach does not result in a resolution to the issue?
 - A. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
 - B. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.