

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE FOR PARENTS AND COACHES

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult jobs. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student-athlete. As parents, when your student becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on the student-athlete. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication You Should Expect From the Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for all student-athletes on the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements during the season
5. Procedure regarding injuries during participation
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of a student's participation

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any scheduled conflicts **well in advance**
3. Specific concerns with regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches

1. The treatment of the student-athlete, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help the athlete improve
3. Concerns about the student's behavior

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches

1. Playing Time at the Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman levels
2. Team Strategy
3. Play Calling
4. Other Student-Athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. 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.

1. Call the Athletic Department to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, speak to the Athletic Director. A return call from the coach will be arranged, or a meeting set up for you.
3. **DO NOT CALL A COACH AT HOME!!!** A coach's time is severely limited during the season. The coach's privacy should be respected.
4. **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER A CONTEST OR PRACTICE.** These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings under these circumstances do not promote resolution.
5. **CHAIN OF COMMAND:**
 1. meeting between player/parent and coach
 2. meeting between player/parent and Athletic Director
 3. meeting between player/parent and Principal

When there is a conflict, players/parents must follow the above chain of command.