

PARENT AND COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

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 whose children are involved in our athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. That begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach

1. The coach's philosophy.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedures we follow should your child be injured during participation.
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 of the practice or event.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at their junior high, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times we encourage discussion with the coach.

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 may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make these judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things 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 a parent. These 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,

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. The school telephone number is (530) 842-3561.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, Ms. Buzzy McCluskey. She will set up the meeting for you.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach immediately before or after a contest or a practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote a solution.

What can the parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Research indicates a student involved in sport activities has a greater 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 the information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with the high school athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.