

Parent/Coach Communication Plan

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 benefits to our children. As parents, when your son/daughter becomes involved in athletics, please understand what expectations are placed on him/her. This begins with clear lines of communication.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter as well as for the team
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Team requirements (i.e. practices, contests, equipment, conditioning)
4. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Any and all concerns are expressed directly to the head coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance (except emergencies)

High school athletics will involve some of your child's best memories. It is also important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times a discussion directly with the head coach should take place.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. Ways to help your child improve
2. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Other student athletes

It is very difficult to accept your child playing time in some instances. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen above, certain things are appropriate to discuss with your child's coaches while others are left to the discretion of the coaches.

If there is a concern to discuss with a coach, the following is the procedure that must be complied with:

1. The player is to speak with the coach directly and discuss his/her concern. Many times the matter can be taken care of at that time.
2. The parent(s) and player are to speak with the coach directly and discuss their concern. This discussion however should not be held during a practice time or before/after a contest. A meeting will have to be scheduled at both party's convenience.
3. The parent(s) and player are to speak with the varsity head coach and discuss their concern.
4. If the matter at hand is not resolved after completing the procedures above, the parent(s) and/or player may request a meeting with the athletic director and coach.

However, it should be understood that under no circumstance will the athletic director ever mandate playing time for a player.

5. If the matter at hand is not resolved after completing the procedures above, the parent(s) and/or player may request a meeting with a building level administrator. However, it should be understood that under no circumstance will a building administrator ever mandate playing time for a player.

Expectations of Parent/Guardian:

1. Support your student athlete's effort toward success and maintain the importance of a strong work ethic academically and athletically.
2. Work to promote a positive environment that is to the benefit of your student athlete
3. Become familiar with and review with your child all team and district athletic policies.
4. Communicate any concerns in a timely manner, according to district protocol.
5. Treat all coaching personnel, officials, and opposing teams with courtesy and respect and insist that your child does the same.
6. Support the program by being an active parent and positive role model for all student athletes.

Important aspects to keep in mind:

1. Participation in athletics is a privilege. Any actions/behavior inside or outside of school that is detrimental to the team, the player themselves, a coach, or the school may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
2. Academics are the number one priority. Students are held to strict PIAA academic standards. Students may be suspended from participation on a team for academic reasons.
3. Parents can have a major affect on their children's future in sports. Being at odds with the coach along with disrespectful behavior as a parent is one of the biggest mistakes that can be made. Remember, the first person a college recruiter will talk to is the high school coach. The behavior of a student athlete's parents is not off limits for discussion.

