

## **Communication- Parent/Coach:**

Communication between coaches and parents is encouraged so that decisions made are best for all of the participants. Clear communications allow for clear expectations and greater understanding.

### **Communication All Parents Can Expect From Their Child's Coach**

- Team Itinerary: Parents need to know the location and times of try-outs, practices, games, etc. Much of this information is given directly to the athlete.
- Team Rules: Parents appreciate knowing not only the philosophy of the coach but also any team policies, including consequences that the coach establishes to supplement the rules and regulations adopted by the school.
- Criteria For Team Selection: Parents want to know ahead of time the criteria that will be used in selecting the team.
- Criteria For Earning An Award: Parents want to know the requirements for earning a post-season award.
- Injury: Parents can expect to be immediately informed by the coach when an injury occurs that requires medical attention.
- Problem Behavior: Coaches will call when their child develops unusual patterns of behavior such as unexplained absences from practice, moodiness, attitude problems, etc.
- Discipline: the coach will inform Parents within forty-eight hours of all discipline that results in the loss of contest participation.

### **Communication Coaches Appreciate from Parents**

- Schedule Conflicts: Coaches like to know ahead of time about unavoidable absences, lateness to practice, or the necessity to leave early. Parents should inform the coach as soon as possible about schedule conflicts or when your child is going to be absent or late to practice.
- Emotional Stressors: Coaches appreciate knowing about any unusual event in the life of an athlete that is causing the young person additional stress. Parents should initiate contact with the coach to provide insight into changes in your child's emotional state.
- Volunteers: Coaches need help with so many aspects of managing the program that they are always glad to hear from parents who have ideas and are willing to work for the team.
- Forthrightness: Coaches would like to hear about parental concerns directly, not third hand, before a situation has escalated. Every coach wants to try to resolve a conflict before it is taken to the athletic director, principal, or other higher authority or before it is discussed "in the stands".

### **Areas Of Control That Belong To The Coach**

- Tryout procedures and selection criteria.
- Position(s) played, lineups and playing time.
- Offensive and defensive strategies and style of play.
- Practice plans, drills and scrimmages.

### **Appropriate Concerns for Parents to Discuss With Coaches**

- The treatment of your child.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's health and welfare, academic progress, or violations of the code of conduct.

*It is sometimes difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals and they make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. (Use the 24/48 rule. Wait to discuss the situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest but not after 48 hours.)***

### **How To Discuss An Appropriate Concern With The Coach**

Whenever a question or concern arises regarding an athletic situation, please abide by the following steps.

1. Student-athlete meets with the coach to discuss the situation first.
2. If necessary, parents talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. Making an appointment, sitting

down and listening to both sides is productive in reaching a mutually satisfying resolution. Our coaches are expected and encouraged to meet with individual parents to discuss concerns that affect that parent's child.

3. If necessary, and if your concern is with a Sub-Varsity Coach, talk next with the Head Varsity Coach of the sport.

4. If necessary, talk next with the Athletic Director. A meeting may be arranged with the concerned parties to discuss the issue. Getting everyone together in the same room to communicate openly resolves most issues.

5. If necessary, talk next with the Principal. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment.

6. Once the parent and principal meeting have taken place and the conflict has not been resolved, the parent may schedule a meeting with the superintendent or designee.