

HIGH SCHOOL PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

PARENT-COACH RELATIONSHIP

Parenting and coaching are both extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child is involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on him/her. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the sport.

COMMUNICATIONS YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations and goals the coach has for your child as well as for the team/season.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs.
5. Procedure if your child is injured during participation.
6. Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions.
7. Lettering criteria.
8. Team selection process.
9. Eligibility requirements including attendance.
10. Proper care and responsibility for equipment issued by the school.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM ATHLETES & PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your child becomes involved in his/her programs at middle and high school, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IS:

- Call or e-mail the coach to schedule an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the School Athletic Director; he/she will set a meeting for you.
- Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

APPROPRIATE/INAPPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

The following topics are appropriate for discussion:

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve his/her skills.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you had hoped. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach.

Coaches are not expected to respond to questions involving the following topics:

1. Amount of playing time, positioning, event entry.
2. Team strategies, game tactics, play calling.
3. Any discussion about other student athletes.

PLAYER/COACH CONFERENCES

All coaches should have an open-door policy for conferences with players. Players need to have confidence that their concerns will be heard and addressed with respect and confidentiality in a timely manner.

PARENT/COACH/PLAYER CONFERENCES

If a parent /coach conference is scheduled (by appointment), we recommend the following guidelines:

- The coach will meet with the parent or two parents or guardians of one player at a time. The coach is not expected to approve requests to meet with larger groups.

- Although not mandatory, we highly recommend that the student be present for the parent/coach conference. Bringing all parties to the same table can effectively bring important issues to light.

THE NEXT STEP

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

Call and schedule an appointment with the School Athletic Director to discuss the situation. Please note that the athletic director will inquire about whether or not the parent has addressed the concerns with the coach. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

FILING A CLAIM FOR AN ATHLETIC INJURY

1. Student **MUST** see a doctor within 30 days of injury.
2. When an accident occurs, file with your primary health insurance company first, as this athletic insurance plan is secondary coverage.
3. If you have no primary health insurance, this athletic accident insurance plan is primary and you need to file with the school carrier.
4. Request a claim form from the head athletic trainer or the coach.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

5. The first section “To Be Completed by Organization/School” needs to be filled out by school personnel. At this time, policy numbers are available so leave that line blank but be sure to write in by Organization/School Name—Wake County Public Schools & the School Name.
6. Under “Type of Benefits Claimed” section, the athletic trainer needs to complete this section as well. Check the “Accident-Medical” box, and complete the remainder of this section, sign, and date.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

7. Send the claim form home to the parents and it is now their responsibility to complete the remainder of the claim form, sign, date, and forward it to the address on top of claim form along with any medical bills and their insurance provider’s explanation of benefits (EOB) should be attached. **The claim form needs to be submitted within 60 days of the date of accident.**

STANDARDS OF ETHICS & SPORTSMANSHIP FOR EVERYONE

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character. Sportsmanship is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory according to the eight character traits adopted by the Wake County Public School System.

1. **Courage**—having the determination to do the right thing even when others don’t.
2. **Good Judgment**—setting priorities in accordance with team, county, state, and national rules.
3. **Integrity**—having the inner strength to be fair and courteous during athletic events.
4. **Kindness**—being considerate, courteous, generous in spirit to the opposing team; treating others as you would like to be treated.
5. **Perseverance**—being persistent in pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of opposition.
6. **Respect**—showing high regard for coaches, officials, opponents, fans, administrators, self, team, and the school you are representing.
7. **Responsibility**—showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct, and being accountable for your actions.
8. **Self-discipline**—refraining from inappropriate behaviors and maintaining self-control at all times

“HIGH FIVES” TO SPORTSMANSHIP - EVERYONE’S “HIGH FIVE”

1. Show respect for the opponent at all times
2. Show respect for the officials
3. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest
4. Maintain self-control at all times
5. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation

SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGES

The NCHSAA requires that coaches, players, and parents sign pledges to good sportsmanship prior to each year of high school competition. The pledges are reprinted here.

Coach's Pledge

As a coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I know that the principles of good sportsmanship are integrity, fairness, and respect. While teaching the skills of the game, I must also teach student athletes how to win and lose graciously, and that sport is meant to be educational and fun. I know the behavior expectations of me by this school, conference, and the NCHSAA, and hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of ethical behavior, integrity, and good citizenship.

Student-Athlete's Pledge

As a student-athlete, I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school, my conference, and the NCHSAA and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student-athlete.

Parent's Pledge

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school, our conference, and the NCHSAA. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student-athlete.