

Parent/Coach Communication

I. Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- A. Philosophy of the coach.
- B. Expectations the coach has for all team members.
- C. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- D. Team requirements.
- E. Procedure should your athlete be injured during participation.
- F. Discipline stemming from a school or team rule infraction.

II. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- A. The treatment of your athlete, mentally and/or physically.
- B. Ways to help your athlete improve.
- C. Concerns about your athlete's behavior.

NOTE: It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all athletes involved. As you may have seen from the above list, certain things can be and should be discussed with your athlete's coach. Other things, such as those to follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

III. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- A. Playing time
- B. Team strategy
- C. Play calling
- D. Other athletes

NOTE: 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.

IV. If you have a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedures should be followed:

- A. The student athlete must bring the issue to the coach's attention.
- B. If the issue needs further attention, contact the coach during his planning period to get a clarification or to set up a meeting.
- C. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

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

- A. Call during school hours and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
- B. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.