



NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL Parent/Coach Communication

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 our students. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH:

- ◆ Philosophy of the coach
- ◆ Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
- ◆ Locations and times of all practices and contests
- ◆ Team requirements; i.e., special equipment, off-season conditioning
- ◆ Procedure should your child be injured during participation
- ◆ Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS:

- ◆ Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- ◆ Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- ◆ Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the athletic program, they 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 or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

- ◆ The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- ◆ Ways to help your child improve
- ◆ Concerns about your child's behavior or safety

It is difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals and make decisions based on what they believe to be 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, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

- ◆ Playing time and position
- ◆ Team strategy
- ◆ Play calling and tactics
- ◆ Other student-athletes

PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW SHOULD YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH:

The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Step 1 – The student-athlete and coach will meet to discuss the issue.

Step 2 – The parent and student-athlete should schedule a meeting with the coach.

Step 3 – If not resolved, the parent may schedule a meeting with the Athletic Director and Coach.

Step 4 – If not resolved, the parent may contact the building Principal.

Step 5 – If not resolved, the parent may contact the Superintendent.

Parents are expected to sequentially follow the conflict chain listed above.